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WEEKLY NOTES.

THE recess of Congress is proving useful in giving people time to think over the legislation which was foreshadowed during the opening weeks of the session. If the joint resolution on the electoral count is not much discussed, it is because it is felt to be of no practical importance, and there is a general conviction that its advocates are not open to reason. Indeed, we do not see why the Republicans in Congress should waste the public time in opposition to the measure. Let the Democrats put themselves on record by this colossal blunder if they want to. It will help to secure two years hence the election of a Senate which will help to repeal all such legislation.

Chief in importance of the bills before the House, it is felt, is the Funding Bill of Mr. Wood and of the majority of the Committee on Ways and Means. That bill does not, as we supposed, contain a sanction of Mr. Sherman's plan for Treasury notes. That plan is embodied in a separate measure, which has been introduced by Judge Kelley. The Committee's bill arranges for refunding an amount equal to all the bonds which will fall due during the present year, at three per cent. interest, subscriptions at par. Against this proposal there is a general protest from the representatives of the National Banks, who declare that the profits on bank issues are already so much reduced by taxation that it will not be worth their while to accept the new bonds as a basis of circulation. The four per cents, they admit, sell at thirteen per cent. premium, but they deny that the three per cents can be sold at par. If the public will lend \$113 for four dollars a year, for what consideration will they lend \$100 on the same basis of credit? That is a sum in simple proportion, and the answer is not \$3.00, but \$3.54. In fine, three and one-half per cent. is the lowest rate that the government has any reason to expect. It is at that rate that the Indian Government has just borrowed a small sum in the London market, to the great astonishment of all concerned. No European nation, except England itself, can borrow at even that rate. And yet Mr. Wood expects to borrow fifty times as much in the face of the opposition of the banks, and to get it at a rate more than half of one per cent. lower than is justified by the rates in the bond market.

WE presume that this new Funding Bill will rally against itself all those who favor the continuance and extension of our national banking currency, while it will receive the solid support of the Greenback party. It gives the latter such an opportunity as no one could have foretold for them. If it passes, it may so cripple the banks, as sources of circulation, as to force an enlargement of the volume of the Treasury notes. That a New York Congressman should be the chief champion of such a monetary revolution is surely an anomaly. Nothing but the firm assurance that the new loan will be a failure, can account for the apathy with which our chief commercial city seems to regard the measure.

Some of the banks rely upon the supposition that their withdrawal of their circulation will so tighten the money market as to make subscriptions impossible. But that this is not the probable result *The Advertiser* clearly shows. The bonds held by the Treasury as security for the circulation which would be sur-

rendered, are not the four and four-and-a-half per cents., but the five and six per cents., whose time for redemption has come. The banks surrendering their circulation will receive not the bonds they deposited, but their money value, which exceeds their circulation by ten per cent. In this way the transaction will result in giving greater ease to the money market by furnishing the banks with larger amounts of loanable capital than they now have, and thus making the new loan easier than it would be in the present state of the market. Nor does the Government depend upon the banks to absorb any such loan. Of the fours and the four-and-a-halves only one-seventh are held by the banks, the rest being in the hands of private persons at home and abroad.

All those who do not desire to see our paper money centralized to a single point of issue, should be alive to this danger. They should make Mr. Wood understand that they do not wish him to effect a revolution in our monetary system, under the disguise of a Funding Bill.

THE proposals made by Secretary Sherman and Commissioner Raum for the reduction of taxation, are exciting some discussion. The taxes with which the country can dispense most easily are those on matches and on bank-checks. The removal of the former would be a real gain to the country, as this tax falls most heavily on classes which are least able to bear it. But for the same reason the tax on bank-checks should be retained. It is one of the few taxes borne exclusively by the wealthier portion of the community, and the \$1,800,000 it brings should rather be increased by similar stamps on other documents, as in England, than removed. The taxes on the capital and deposits of banks, amounting to \$7,700,000, four-sevenths of which are paid by the national banks, can hardly be justified on any rational principle of taxation. It is a remnant of the feeling cherished by Democratic politicians of past generations, that a bank is an engine for the oppression of the people, which no amount of legislative safeguard can keep from proving a popular danger. Bank stock and deposits are taxed as we might tax gunpowder when kept in cities, or whiskey and tobacco to restrain their consumption. There is quite as much reason for a tax on railroads as for a tax on banks. Each exists for the service of the community, and public safety is not consulted by laws which tend to prevent their extension. It is the opponents of the privileges accorded to the national banks who should work the hardest to have this taxation removed. For whenever these privileges are assailed, it is behind this taxation that the bankers take refuge. They claim privilege as a right, on the ground that they contribute in this way to replenishing the national treasury. In this way we have got on our hands, as regards our banking system, a scale of abatements and compensations, such as used to exist within many branches of business, but which have now been swept away by the good sense of business men. Let us put banking on the same footing as other business, charging the banks the exact value of the services rendered them in the cost of their notes, their inspection, and the like, and then refuse them any privileges we would not accord to hardware dealers.

THE more than abundant censures which have been poured upon the House of Representatives, because of the quarrel between Messrs. Weaver and Sparks, mark the new era of public decency in our

legislative assemblies. Forty years ago such a scene would have attracted hardly any attention, as being a matter of too common occurrence to require extended notice. The truth is, that Congress is now one of the most orderly and respectable of legislative bodies, and one in which personal recriminations play a less part than in most of the national assemblies of the old world.

We think that the House was fully justified in dropping the matter when the gentlemen offending had apologized, and in declining to expel them. It is a very serious matter to deprive an American constituency of the representative of its choice, and even to deprive it for a time of all representation in our national assembly. It was this consideration which weighed most with Mr. Gladstone and the English Commons in the Bradlaugh case, and we think it entitled to equal weight in the present instance. The main point is this, that the affair will not tend to the recurrence of such scenes. Neither Mr. Weaver nor Mr. Sparks will ever condescend to such language again on the floor of the House, nor have other members received encouragement to follow their bad example.

The Spectator has given our newspapers a theme for discussion by an article on the prosperity of America, and what it believes to be the consequent duties of this country. On the first head, *The Spectator* has somewhat exaggerated ideas. The United States are not by any means the land of Cockayne which seems to float before the vision of our contemporary. In many respects we are worse off than any of the older countries of Europe, just because we are a new country, and therefore poor. The accumulated toil of milleniums, which Europe has behind her, is nearly all before us in this new land. Natural enemies that there have yielded long ago to human toil—as malaria yields to drainage—are still in vigor among us. Mr. Clare Read told the English farmers the plain truth, when he said that life in the tillage of this new land is a life of hard work and sharp economies, such as the English farmer rarely knows; and that if the latter means to compete with our agriculture, he must renounce luxury and leisure, and come down to the same hard level.

Then, too, as regards the intellectual and moral condition of our people, we have tasks on hand large enough to tax our utmost strength, without going mooning after foreign enterprises. We have the heritages of slavery in the black and white races of the South, and the heritages of European mis-government in the immigrants of the North. The really American majority, whose minds heartily accept the ideas of equality and justice, and who have shared in the average of American education, have to make out life with one hand, and to build up the intellectual and moral fabric of society with the other: and if they do their duty, they are quite as busy as the Jews were in days of Nehemiah. It is not to their duties to foreign lands that the American people, in the judgment of the most earnest among them, need to be called first of all, but to their duties to their own land.

The Spectator wants us to interfere with ships and shells on behalf of the down-trodden nationalities of the world. That is not the American idea of international help. If it were, we should begin not with the Turk, but with the Englishman. Japan would be liberated from the commercial slavery in which British diplomats, aided by British fleets, have bound her, and would be invested with her proper autonomy. The opium invasion of China would cease. Of India and Afghanistan we say nothing. The Transvaal Republic, now so gallantly fighting for its life, and the Basutos, would have their independence. And last of all, Ireland would be cut loose from the slavery of seven hundred years' hostile occupation, and her people enabled to follow their own destiny according to their own lights. We certainly would not run to Armenia or Thessaly for objects of our military benevolence, while Western

Ireland, thanks to British rule, contains, as Col. Gordon tells us, the most wretched population of the world, and while that population is appealing to us for sympathy and help. We do full justice to the high principle which animates *The Spectator* in treating all topics except China and Japan, but we think that the average Englishman has great reason to be thankful that the United States do not follow *The Spectator's* advice.

WE do not concede that the United States are exerting no influence for good in other lands. In the first place, the example we set, of an orderly, free, peaceful and honest government of the Republican sort, is making despotism every day more intolerable to the people of less favored countries. We have shown that a free people can put themselves under military rule for the time being, to save national unity. We have shown that they can come out of that rule into ordinary constitutional liberty and peaceful methods without a jar to the system. We have shown that they can tax themselves to the utmost to effect an honest and speedy discharge of public obligations. We have helped to show that Democratic liberty and public order are not inconsistent, and that the fundamental assumption of the Metternichs and the Castlereaghs was a lie.

Still another influence we are exerting through those who have gone out to other lands as representatives of our civilization. England has great influence in the councils of the Sultan, but America's influence is felt in the homes of the Christian peoples who are emancipating themselves from the Sultan's rule. Roberts's College in Constantinople is a greater power than Mr. Goschen. To that college Bulgaria owes the awakening of its dormant nationality, and the germination of those ideas which have borne fruit in the virtual independence of the country. Now that the effervescence and confusion of the time of organization has passed away, it is to "the American party" in Bulgaria that the control of the government has fallen. That party is the party of order and progress. Hardly less is the indebtedness of the Armenians to the American missionaries, who have been urging upon this wide-awake people the truth that life has higher ends than money-making. These are some of the fruits of American influence. We value them more highly than any results that could be achieved by ships and shells.

As regards our own continent, our friendly critic has perhaps a better case to urge. We have not done much for the people of the Western world. But we have constituted ourselves their guardians against the schemes of European dynasties. The Monroe Doctrine, an English premier once suggested, is a fence around many a Naboth's vineyard, that but for it would have been seized long ago. We have not done well by Mexico. We did her, in the days when the slave-holders ruled us, a great and irreparable wrong. But we ordered Napoleon III. out of the country, in terms which converted even "Maga" into our ardent admirer. As to keeping the peace in Spanish America, there is but one way of doing it. We might annex those disorderly republics and convert ourselves into a great military empire, to the sacrifice, sooner or later, of our own liberties to "the man on horseback." Apart from that, we might have used the influence which accompanies ordinary social and commercial intercourse. But from that we have been cut off by England herself, which has secured the commerce of South America through subsidized lines of steamships. In that policy we cannot follow her, being too solid in our attachment to free trade principles to stoop to voting subsidies.

OUR military establishment is not a large one, but it furnishes room enough for some very bitter quarrels and contentions. Its officers are divided broadly into two classes,—those who are West-Pointers and those who are not. The war caused a great increase in the latter element, and a consequent decline in the strength of the

Army Ring, which was once so powerful in the lobby at Washington. Had General Hancock been elected President, this inequality would have been redressed, and the regular Ring would have had everything its own way. He was its candidate for the Presidency, whatever the previous political affiliations of its members. Since his defeat most of them have been in a condition of chronic sore-headedness, and this has culminated in positive quarreling over the recent changes and promotions.

The Ring has had much to irritate it. It has not had a chance for a President, except this one, since Zachary Taylor. General Grant ought to have belonged to it, but his long absence from the service prevented him from acquiring its tastes and preferences. He was and is more of a citizen than a soldier. He is little better than a "mustang," to use its elegant term for those who have attained distinction without a West Point certificate. Mr. Hayes and Mr. Garfield are both mere "mustangs," and not inclined to see the especial claims of the regular service upon the country. The people may be fond of soldier Presidents, but somehow the lightning does not seem to strike the Ring.

The present disturbance of amity has its occasion in the transfer of certain high officers to the retired list, to make room for the younger men. This procedure we regard as both just and wise. The military profession demands of its votaries that they shall be in the strength and vigor of their years. Our experience in the late war showed how little was to be gained by keeping on the active list such generals as Scott. They were merely an embarrassment to the Government. If we sent our Belisariuses to beg by the wayside, there might be some ground for deprecating their withdrawal from the service. But a Major General who has a pension of \$4,000 a year for the rest of his life, with full liberty to increase it by any civil employment for which he has still the energy needed, is hardly an object of public commiseration.

THERE are indications of a general rally on the part of the Free Traders, with a view to the selection of a Congress of their sort two years hence. They do not know what hurt them in the last election, and they think that if they had had more time to educate the people, the result would have been different. Hence the activity of the Society for Political Education. Hence, also, the organization of a Free Trade Club in Brooklyn, with Mr. Henry Ward Beecher, honorary member of the Cobden Club, at its head. Still further indications are found in the tone assumed by Republican papers, which carefully avoided the subject during the heat of the election. It is always a sign of the times, when "Pennsylvanian" becomes in certain quarters a term of reproach, and the attempt is made to stir up against the people of this State local jealousies in its sister commonwealths. It is yet another sign when New York papers begin to deplore the weight of our taxation, and to suggest that a national debt is too precious a possession to be needlessly and hastily destroyed. This seems to be the line upon which the education of the American people into Free Trade is to be attempted.

If our Free Trade friends will take a look over the past fifteen years, they will discover that it is not for want of effort to educate the people that they have lost ground. They have done ten times as much in that shape as their rivals have done. They have put into circulation twenty pages of books and pamphlets for one in defence of Protection. They have had, besides, the indirect influence of English books and periodicals, which discuss the matter either directly or indirectly, and which find in America multitudes of readers. They have had nearly a monopoly of the teaching on this subject from our professorial chairs. Their newspapers have not been behind those of the Protectionists in ability or in circulation. And they have not wanted in zealous apostles of their doctrine, such as Mr. Atkinson, Col. Grosvenor, Mr. Wells, Professor Perry, Mr. Moore and Professor Sumner. And yet their cause is

visibly more hopeless to-day than it ever was. When *The Nation* was still very young, it predicted the early overthrow of the Protective Tariff. We should be very much surprised to find that acrid but acute observer of our politics repeating that prediction to-day. The truth is that the dice are weighted in favor of Protection. Hard experience is too strong for beautiful but wire-drawn theories. Every factory is a society for political education, a centre of opinion which is not for Free Trade. And to the Protectionists falls the easy task of emphasizing the lessons which are "writ large" upon the industrial growth of the country.

MR. TALMAGE, of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, is so much a public character that the news of a renewal of his trial by the Brooklyn Presbytery is a matter of general interest. It seems quite clear that his former prosecutors have discovered evidence that he had gone much farther in his negotiations with *The Advance* than he admitted in the statements he made at his previous trial. Yet, we do not see the use of reviving the prosecution. The Presbytery, if we may judge from the speeches of its members, did not acquit him on the ground that he had told the truth in the matters *sub lite*, but on the ground that he was such a dear, good, useful brother, that it would be wrong not to allow him a moral margin refused to other and less useful men.

THE appearance of Mlle. Bernhardt on the American stage has been the signal for an outbreak of a certain sort of criticism for which we see no just occasion. The broad facts as regards the actress's life were too well known to need much repetition from press or pulpit. Every person in the country knew enough to have the material for an intelligent decision as regards his own conduct. It was known that her life was no more stainless than that of Shakespeare, or Rachel, or scores of our actors and public men of past generations, and some in the present. Many good people found themselves unable to sever the woman from the artist, and resolved, although not hostile to the theatre, to abstain from witnessing her acting. We respect their decision, but we think they would be among the first to condemn the gross indecency, alternating with frivolous jests, with which the moral tragedy in the life of a talented woman has been discussed. Others decided that, for their own part, they could and would make the distinction. While they would not have gone to see any actress take a part in an indecent play, they saw nothing to keep them from witnessing her presentation of dramas which contained nothing offensive to public morals. They recognized the fact that her public career as an artist has been as blameless as that of Nillon herself; and they treated her appearance on the stage just as they would have treated the appearance of one of her pictures on the walls of a public gallery. They regard either as a matter of public interest in a purely artistic sense, and as deriving a moral significance only from the moral character of play or picture. We respect this attitude of mind equally, and we honor those who assume it for their refusal to be bullied into compliance with an opinion which they do not share. And we deplore the coarseness and ill-manners displayed by many of the representatives and leaders of our public opinion towards this woman and stranger, towards whom our utmost severity should have been our silence and our reserve.

PROFESSOR HENRY YOULE HIND, a gentleman whose veracity is equal to that of any gentleman in the Dominion of Canada, has published a letter to Sir John A. Macdonald, in which such grave charges of infamy are laid against the Premier, that we draw back in amaze. It was long ago accepted as a fact that in the matter of the Halifax award the United States was swindled, and the main reason alleged was the proved incompetency of the American Commissioner when measured against Sir Alexander Galt. But we were hardly prepared for the assertion that to the superior talent and

abundant diplomacy of the Canadian Commissioner were added forgery and fraud. We should have supposed that Sir Alexander Galt was sufficiently able, backed by the legal talent of the Dominion, to have won his case without resorting to the outrage of crime. It seems that there has been a deliberate and long continued falsification of the fishery statistics, falsified to enable Canada to put a better face upon her plea for damages from the United States. Mr. Hind, who has abundant means for knowing, charges that Sir John Macdonald used these false figures—"a secret appendix"—at Washington when the preliminary negotiations were undertaken, and that the same statistics were used again at Halifax. Mr. Hind claims that the papers in his possession expose "rivers of black dishonor and crime" on the part of the officials of the Dominion.

Mr. Hind invites a parliamentary investigation, and asserts his intention of appearing at Ottawa during the present month for the purpose of furnishing Sir John Macdonald every facility. It will be impossible for the Premier to refuse; he would hardly dare a further outrage. If, however, the Canadian Minister declines an investigation, the United States must immediately invite Mr. Hind to lay his facts and figures before the Secretary of State, and if his case is proved a demand for the re-opening of the Halifax case and refunding of the five millions should be immediately made upon Great Britain. We can at any time afford to pay five millions of dollars when a case against us is fairly proved for that amount. And we can afford to pay five millions when the amount is not fairly won—as to the total—when the Commission which we have accepted as a proper tribunal so decides. But we cannot afford to pay five cents when taken from us by an elaborate argument of lies, by the convincing conclusions so easily drawn from false premises, by being the victims of "rivers of black dishonor." Our honor no less than our pocket is at stake. And we will protect both to the last.

THE Canadian Ministry avowed their purpose to carry, before the Christmas holidays, a Parliamentary approval of the bargain they have made for the completion of their Pacific Railway. But the opposition offered by Mr. Blake and his friends of the Liberal party has been so vigorous and spirited that the Ministry were forced to see Parliament adjourn over without reaching any decisive vote on the subject. It is true that the opposition is shorn of its strength by the fatal concession that in some way the road must be built. The record of the Liberals when in power commits them to that measure, and they can fight Sir John MacDonald merely on the details of his plan. They certainly have succeeded in exposing its weakness on several points. One of these is the vastness of the concessions to the syndicate. Another is the permission given it to import railroad iron free of duty, which has a bad sound as coming from a Protectionist administration. But the sorest point is in the discovery that the syndicate means to connect the new road with our American system of railroads, and to make it a northwestern feeder of that system, instead of keeping it apart, as a mere connecting link between the central and the western provinces of the Dominion.

As to the possibility that the road will ever be remunerative, the Canadian politicians are not much concerned, except as its failure to pay running expenses may lead, after a time, to its suspension, as is threatened to the Intercolonial road between Halifax and Montreal. *The Globe* reminds them that the Pacific coast is soon to be supplied amply with railroad communication. The Union Pacific, by which our government has lost \$93,000,000, in a few weeks will cease to enjoy the monopoly by which it has kept up fares and freights. The Southern Pacific lacks but fifty miles to make its connection complete, while the new syndicate for building the Northern Pacific means to push that line to completion. This, with the Canadian Pacific, will furnish four, and in time five, lines

of through connection with a region whose resources and necessities call for no such accommodation. How any one of them will make a dividend is an unsolved problem.

THE London correspondent of *The World* is magnifying his office by sending over *canards* of the largest size, especially with regard to Irish affairs. Not long ago he knew for certain that the Queen had soundly berated Mr. Gladstone for refusing to coerce the League. Next he discovered that a league similar to the Irish was about to be organized among English tenants. His last discovery was the certainty of a great uprising in Ireland on the day after Christmas. For this last report there is just so much excuse that the English government does fear an outbreak similar to that of the Fenians, and engineered by the same class of Irish-American soldiers. There are no grounds for such an apprehension. The class of Irishmen who have devoted their lives to the emancipation of Ireland from British rule, have no intention of interfering with the more peaceable operations of the Land League. They are only anxious lest the success of the present movement should be imperilled by outbreaks of any sort, which might seem to justify violent measures on the part of the government. It is not with Europe at peace, and with no enemies more powerful than the Transvaal Republic occupying England's attention, that they mean to strike their great blow for the liberation of their country.

MR. PARNELL and his associates of the Home Rule party have adopted a very pronounced and radical programme for the regulation of their conduct during the coming session of Parliament. They are quite justified in so doing. Experience has taught them that extreme measures only will arouse the attention of the English people, and convince her hereditary and elective legislators of the necessity of action. Therefore they mean to offer wholesale obstruction to every kind of legislation, unless satisfactory measures are offered for the restoration of peace and contentment to the Irish people.

The Liberals are not prepared to offer what Ireland will regard as satisfactory measures. All that they propose, is such restrictive legislation as will make the Irish tenant's position a more tolerable one. They will give him fixity of tenure, at a fair rent, and with free sale of his tenant right and unexhausted improvements. "It is toward some law of this kind," says *The Spectator*, "that all opinion is gravitating." But the Irish opinion organized in the League is not gravitating toward it. On the contrary, it regards it as one of those sops by which *doctrinaires* are always trying to check revolutions. The Irish demand to-day, as a year ago, is summed up in the brief apophthegm, "The Landlords must go!" The final question for English legislation, they say, is the kind and amount of compensation to be given them for their interest in the land, and the terms the Government will require of the tenants for the repayment of the amount.

For, after all, the question is not one of economics only. English conquest found Ireland, as it found the Highlands, vested in groups or septs of freemen. The chiefs of these septs had no separate rights. England made in Ireland the blunder she made in the Highlands and in Western India. She assumed the existence of her own landlord system, and when she replaced the chiefs by her barons and nobles, she invested them with the ownership of the soil. It is the memory of this confiscation that lingers in this Celtic race, whose length of recollection surpasses that of any other people. It is this which is reflected in their passionate clinging to the land of their native country. It is this that animates them to united resistance. It is this that must be mended before peace will come back to Ireland.

THE opening of the trial of the leaders of the Land League indicates that the Liberal Ministry means to carry it on with due re-

gard to public decency, and not to incur the disgrace which was inflicted on Sir Robert Peel's administration by the manner of O'Connell's conviction. The jury secured are for the most part Catholics, and the right of challenge was conceded promptly to the defendants. Lord Chief Justice May announced his withdrawal from the case, a step evidently taken under pressure from his official superiors, as he accompanied it with a defence of his conduct in the earlier stages of the trial, which called forth such a torrent of reprobation. All this points to the fact that State trials in Ireland are to be shorn of their scandals. Messrs. Gladstone and Forster, we believe, would rather see Mr. Parnell and his friends acquitted—as they probably will be—than secure their conviction by the infamies associated with the judicial murders of former reigns.

It is very evident that Greece means to begin war as soon as spring opens. She has refused to submit her claims to a fresh arbitration, insisting with justice that the Berlin Conference was such an arbitration, and that she is entitled to all that it awarded her. We wish we could see some signs of a readiness on the part of the Great Powers to give her any support in the coming struggle. But we cannot. She is about to undertake an aggressive war upon a stronger power than herself. She has given Turkey such warning of her intentions that the territory in dispute will be prepared for defence to the utmost. And she has not a single friend upon whom she can depend for a shell or a ship.

THE troubles in Armenia seem to have reached the point of resistance on the part of the Christians. Having discovered that they cannot be worse off than they are, the Haiks have made up their minds to take their oppressions fighting instead of lying prostrate. They have formed a league for defence against the Pashas and the Kurds, and have met with such success in their first efforts, as enheartens them and astonishes their enemies. We should have been surprised had it proved otherwise. For centuries past, it is true, the Armenians have displayed the toughness of their nationality chiefly in suffering. But it was not always so, as students of medieval history are aware. For long periods the country held its own by force of arms, against the Moslems on the one side and the Greek Emperors on the other, and only succumbed when weakened by internal divisions and dynastic disputes. The energy that has made the Haik the keenest of business men, is capable of a much nobler direction, as the instance of Gen. Loris Melikoff shows; and the newly awakened spirit of the people may bear fruit in a noble conflict for national independence.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BY the time these words reach our readers, they will be trying to remember to put 1881 instead of 1880 at the top of their letters, and will be wishing each other A Happy New Year! In that wish we join most cordially, adding the wish that we may all grow in the knowledge of what makes a happy year.

The word happy has as many senses as there are social and personal horizons in life. To the man of the lower average it means a year full of pleasant things, and free from such annoyances as business perplexities, social disappointments and family sorrows. His horizon is bounded by business on one side and his household on the other. Men call him selfish and narrow. They charge him perhaps with closeness in his bargains. But there is a public opinion of the home to which he bows. His year of drudgery and money-getting are spent not for his own sake, but that others than he may lie softly and fare delicately and have a good social position. Into most public lives we can see but a little way. They are like the office-clerk in *Great Expectations*, who had seemingly no passion except for acquisition. But the romance of his life lay in

the little suburban villa, where the habits of the office were laid aside, and the man shelled off his selfish crust to appear in his truer self.

There is a large measure of happiness to be found in such a life as this. Some of the greatest of humanizing influences lie within its scope. And to those who go no farther, whose best moral teachers are Dickens and Trollope, we wish all the happiness the year can bring them. May they have the great happiness of doing their duty in the places of life where they find themselves,—the happiness which comes with diligence and honesty in business, and with the growth of right relations in their family life. But there are paths of life in which there lie higher delights and greater services, in which fewer men walk, and those few not always with constancy. Their horizon is the larger one of public interests, the concerns not of their individual selves, but those which are common to the whole community. Their lives are given in many ways to their fellow men, and, without neglecting fireside or business duties, they find sore places in our social life to bind up, and crooked things to put straight. Cromwell well characterized them when he told his second Parliament, "There are in this kingdom honest and faithful men, true to the great things of the Government; namely, the liberties of the people." They are "true to the great things" of society, in taking up the world's burdens as their own, and trying to help those who lie beyond the little circle of their own immediate interest. They are helping the poor, the unprotected, the fallen; they are laboring for a larger social intelligence. They have many discouragements to meet, but with it all such a happiness as never falls to those who take the narrower range of duty as all that is demanded of them.

We do not speak merely of benevolent people, who are trying to fulfil the royal law of loving their neighbor as themselves. Swedenborg tells us that the nation is our nearest of neighbors, and that neighborly love and care is due to it more than to any individual. The moral strength of any nation is in the number of those who feel this, and who love the public order with a jealous but unselfish love,—jealous as involving hatred of all that would corrupt it, and unselfish as seeking no higher reward than the well-being of the state. In Cromwell's opinion this is the kernel class in any country,—the only one to be relied on in times of distress, and the only class to be considered in times of peaceful counsel. His method of getting at its judgments we do not defend; but we share his conviction, that men with a concern for the public welfare should rule and must rule any country which is not going to the dogs. To all, then, who are laboring for the larger interests of society—whether benevolent, educational or political—we wish the happiness their souls desire during this coming year. We wish that they may be strengthened by seeing a larger number of their fellow citizens fitting their shoulders to the same burdens. We wish them the happiness of seeing their own spirit becoming the ruling one is society at large. And this wish involves yet a larger one. It is that society may be awakened to that truth which is the anchor of all social earnestness. We mean the truth of human responsibility to God. This was the strength of the Fathers who founded the Nation in the day of trial and suffering. Mr. Emerson says he finds in the lives and words of men of that earlier age a seriousness which he misses in these days, and he believes that the difference was that their faith in a living God steadied them as with the weight of a universe. We see no reason to believe that men of our times are losing faith in God. On the contrary, we believe they are growing in it. But we fear that it is too much a faith for themselves, and too little a faith for their country. They do not manage to associate their religious convictions with their public duties, as their forefathers did. No broad, national morality is taught, as a rule, by the Churches of America. They seem to feel little concern as to public affairs, except when some special occasion leads them out of the beaten tracks, or some

great abuse opens the flood-gates of pulpit denunciation. We look for better things to come in this regard. May the year be a happy one in the awakening of a deeper natural seriousness, in the diffusion of a broader public spirit, and in the revival of a sense of our responsibility to God.

WOMEN AND LAW.

ONE of the anomalies of the law, which have not yet been modernized into practical and logical principles of justice, bears upon the relations of married women to their husbands and to society at large. We are reminded of the peculiarity of the law in its treatment of the "better half" of the world, by a decision of the House of Lords, which has just been rendered, and which has already attracted considerable attention abroad, because of the apparently novel rule of law which it establishes. The decision, in brief, is to the effect that a husband is not liable for debts contracted by his wife, if he has supplied her with sufficient means to provide herself with suitable necessities. He is not bound to give notice to tradesmen not to furnish her with goods on credit, nor is he required to forbid his wife to pledge his credit. In effect, the decision relieves the husband from all liability, except where he expressly authorizes his wife to make purchases on his account. It places merchants in rather a delicate position, for they must either satisfy themselves that married women trading with them have proper authority to pledge their husband's credit, or else run the risk of having their claims entirely repudiated when presented for payment. So far as English jurisprudence is concerned this principle is a novelty in law, at least in the popular view. It has been the generally accepted opinion that marriage imposed an obligation upon the husband to pay the debts of his wife contracted after marriage, and in many cases before marriage as well. The basis of this obligation was presumed to be either the implied authority of the husband to the wife to purchase necessities for her use and upon his credit, or the marital duty of the husband to supply such necessities to the wife. The latter came to be the true hypothesis in law, the former an implied authority, too often giving rise to ridiculous presumption, as for instance, in the case of a husband driving his wife away from his door and refusing to support her. Here the presumption that the husband was liable for debts contracted by his wife, *because* he had given authority to her to contract them, was an implication altogether too fanciful to deserve sober consideration. Still, where the parties were in actual cohabitation, the courts have constantly recognized an implied authority to the wife to pledge her husband's credit, which the husband could not avoid, except where he could show that the articles purchased were not necessities, or that he had withdrawn the authority by actual notice to the world. The same rule has been in force generally throughout the States, and—until the decision referred to—in England. Different States have enacted different laws, tending to enlarge or diminish the presumptive liability of the husband, but all of them recognize, to a certain extent, the common law liability of the husband to provide necessities for the wife.

Recent years have brought many changes in the legal statue of married women, but there must be many more before the law will have set itself entirely right, both as to the rights of women, and the rights of men as affected by the recognition of the former. The Common Law sunk the individuality of the wife into that of the husband; during coverture she was a legal nobody, and without a legal existence. Compared with the ignominious condition of women of the East, of barbarous and uncivilized nations, the position given to women by the Common Law was honorable and exalted. Compared with the position of women of this country at the present time, it was degraded and unfortunate. It is not a hundred years ago since a woman during coverture was without legal recognition. Her husband was her *lord*,

her property was his, and he might use it, or even squander it, while she was powerless to interfere. She could bring no suit for injury to her person or property, excepting with his consent and in his name. The husband might "correct" his wife, either by moderate physical punishment, or by restraining her of her liberty. Legal punishment which was comparatively light when the criminal was a man, was, under the Common Law, made death in some cases where the guilt rested upon the woman. Larceny was one of the crimes for which women were condemned to death, while men suffered only a few months' imprisonment and a burning in the hand. Any one recognizing the amelioration which has taken place recently in the condition of women, cannot but smile at the laudation poured out upon the Common Law, by the great commentator, Sir William Blackstone, at the close of his chapter on "Husband and Wife." He says: "These are the chief legal effects of marriage during the coverture; upon which we may observe, that even the disabilities which the wife lies under are for the most part intended for her protection and benefit: *so great a favorite is the female sex of the laws of England.*" Who among the favored of the Common Law can find it in their heart to echo "amen" to such sweeping praise for those laws to-day? Time has brought its changes and the "favorite" of the past is now more favored than ever. But the laws which have aimed at ennobling the station of women have been hampered with old principles, which are entirely inconsistent with the present idea of marriage. While the law has tended to a fuller recognition of the dual nature of "husband and wife," it has clung tenaciously to the unity evolved from the crudities of early law making. In law the husband and wife are still one, and yet they are invested with separate identities and interests. The result of this very glaring inconsistency is to extend the legal rights of women, while their legal responsibilities are still limited. The right of holding property has been freely given to them, while the law exempts them from liability on their contracts except within a prescribed limit. The law has taken away from the husband the dominant power of *lord* or *master*, but it prevents a wife from disposing of her own property, unless a formal acknowledgment be made by her, that she parts with it, "without fear or compulsion of or from her husband." In some states a married woman may enter into some of the most solemn contracts, and yet cannot be held to them, unless, first, the contract is in writing; second, that it states that a specific charge is made upon her separate estate; and third, that the charge is for the benefit of her estate. The absence of either one of these particulars nullifies the contract, and leaves the woman free to avoid it. The wife may possess any amount of property, she even may have obtained it all from her husband—indirectly of course—her husband may be without a cent, yet the law exempts the wife from liability for debts contracted by her, for the food that she eats, the clothes that she wears, the house that she lives in. The husband alone is responsible for these and for the support of their children. In many cases a woman is absolutely exempt from punishment where a man would feel the heavy hand of the law. Not only is the wife free from prosecution for libel or slander, but her husband, in some states, is responsible the same as under the Common Law, and must answer for her wrong-doing. A wife may obtain goods under false pretences, perpetrate the most shameless swindling, and still escape legal punishment. In a suit for divorce brought by or against the wife, the husband alone is held liable for the costs. No matter who is the successful party to the suit, the law says that the husband must pay or go to prison. Included in the costs are the fees and allowances of the wife's lawyer, and, win or lose, the husband becomes the debtor. All the present fantasies of the law are directly traceable to the anomaly of a system which persists in denying the individuality of the wife, while, at the same time, it recognizes in her rights which can belong only to an individual.

GEORGE ELIOT.

OUR readers will already have read accounts of the life of this gifted woman to whom the most censorious, or the most critical, cannot refuse a high place among the creative minds, not of the time merely, but of the world—accounts which, by the way, were remarkable for showing how little, even in this century of interviews and inquisitiveness, may be known of one of the most eminent characters in the walks of literature. Those who accuse the age of Shakespeare and Moliere for having preserved so little that is historically certain concerning the life of those world-favorites, may reflect with profit upon the fact that concerning the woman for whom many of her admirers have claimed the title of "The Nineteenth Century Shakespeare," we know little more than we do of the creators of Hamlet and Tartuffe. Yet it may be said we know all that is necessary.

About "George Eliot's" work there is not much room for difference of opinion, though here again we are at times troubled by the mists of tradition. For her earlier writings we cannot say that we entertain the same high admiration professed by her disciples—and especially by those who never read them. With their literary workmanship no fault can be found, but she was plowing that somewhat barren and decidedly unattractive field, where, in Mr. Justin McCarthy's words, "German metaphysics endeavors to come to the relief—or the confusion—of German theology."

In the world of art and literature there is no account taken of sex, and the instant that it is said that "no woman never equalled her here," the sensible person is instinctively reminded of Dr. Johnson's dictum concerning women and dancing dogs. We will not pay George Eliot this customary meaningless and mean compliment; we think frankly that in these fields she was decidedly inferior to others of her contemporaries, and we do not believe that it is doing any injury to her fame to declare or admit as much. Nor can we say that we have deep admiration for George Eliot as a poet. Her poetical works are all marked by high thought and stately diction, but their poetical form was only an accident, and they might as well have been penned in prose. She did not sing because she must. And, while we admit that no writer of romance ever brought to a task such a weight of knowledge and accomplishment, we have sometimes thought that in later years the author's work became oppressive to the reader—too closely approached the limits of "study of character" and neared those of the province of decidedly "hard reading." It is possible to be too conscientious in the elaboration of a character already well-indicated, or to delay the action of a story by describing and dissecting motives that the appreciative reader must already have perceived. It was fortunate for Shakespeare that he was limited to five acts. One thing, too, is noticeable about George Eliot—a curious circumstance, considering how carefully she worked: she, not unfrequently makes mistakes in details, though she does not like "Ouida," send characters out to shoot snipe with rifles. Thus, in "Adam Bede," where there has been much gratuitous trouble taken to give the reader exact dates, most of the dates are wrong. The story begins correctly on Tuesday, June 18, 1799, but then we have Adam returning from work on the 18th of August, which was Sunday, we have the 20th of November, called "a dry Sunday," whereas it was a Saturday, and at the trial Sarah Stone swears that Hetty asked for a lodging at her house on Saturday, February 27, 1800, whereas the 27th was Thursday!

This much said—not in dispraise but in moderation—we may address ourselves to the unmixed pleasure of considering George Eliot's novels. It may or may not have been the success of Charlotte Brontë—"Jane Eyre" was published in 1847—and of George Sand (with whom it was once the correct thing to compare the vastly superior English-woman), that directed Miss Evans towards the field of fiction. Whatever the impulse, it was a fortunate day when she received and

obeyed it. Rarely has a writer begun novel writing at so advanced an age—for George Eliot was thirty-nine when she produced "Adam Bede," the book which really established her fame. Rarely has an author's genius been so promptly and universally acclaimed: it may be added that rarely has an author's success provoked so little jealousy and carping criticism. And it must be added that never has an author labored more conscientiously to produce perfect work and command success. "Adam Bede," in 1859; "The Mill on the Floss," in 1860; "Silas Marner," in 1861; "Romola"—her most carefully constructed book, to our mind, though she will doubtless be judged by "Middlemarch"—in 1863; Felix Holt, in 1866; "Middlemarch," in 1871-2; "Daniel Deronda," in 1876—there was no hurrying about the work begun in the maturity of power, and which she was so competent to perform. It is part of the tradition that the "Scenes of Clerical Life" were always taken to be the production of a man, and that George Eliot's genius was "masculine." If people were slow to believe that the earlier volumes came from a woman's hand, it was because no woman was then known who could write them; as for the later ones, genius and vigor are of no sex, and besides George Eliot showed her femininity in an unmistakable form in her pet preferences among her characters—in her thoroughly womanly way of endowing a favorite with accomplishments he could not bear, and expecting the world to take him at her estimate. One of the greatest and highest characteristics of George Eliot's work was its conscientiousness. She never "scamped" a story or skimmed a character. She had the eye for character, and the scalpel for dissection, of a Balzac, and since Shakespeare no brain has been more luxuriantly creative. The average story teller is satisfied with creating—cannot, perhaps, create more than—three or four central characters: the rest of the personages are adumbrations, or lay figures. But in George Eliot's romances every character lives and breathes and has distinguishing peculiarities, down to the meanest. With all this, there is never any feeling of over-elaboration such as it is impossible not to feel when contemplating certain pictures by early Dutch artists; nor do we ever feel that the author, in the consciousness of creative power, has brought superfluous actors upon the stage simply to show the resources of the company and the munificence of the manager. Her art is more than realism—more than photography. Her characters were not fascinating monsters evolved from her own consciousness; they were living men and women of whom we had all met, or might easily have met, the originals. She did not let portraiture degenerate into caricature, as Dickens was perpetually doing; she did not make her books "philosophical novels," or "stories with a moral and a purpose," in the ordinary acceptance of these terms. As Mr. Justin McCarthy says: "The deep philosophic thought of George Eliot's best novels quietly suffuses and illumines them everywhere. There is no sermon here, no lecture there, no solid mass interposing between this incident and that, no ponderous moral hung around the neck of this or that personage. The reader feels that he is under the spell of one who is not merely a great story-teller, but who is also a deep thinker."

The great writer has silently taken her place among the immortals, and the masses of the English speaking people turn to her grave with an almost sacred affection. This loving appreciation will deepen with the march of the years, the more quickly that George Eliot is released from the perils of idle gossips and unwise friends. Happy they who die in the maturity of power and the height of merited success! George Eliot, than whom not one of the English writers of the nineteenth century is more secure of remembrance while the language lives, has had this good fortune; the achievements of her life will ever be cherished, while already

"Its discords, quenched by meeting harmonies,
Die in the large and charitable air."

THE YEAR AT HOME.

THE political bequests of the dying year to the United States are liberal. The last twelve months of our history have been passed in peace among ourselves and in peace with our neighbors. We have had, indeed, the intense partisan excitement characteristic of every Presidential year, but the stormy days of the Presidential canvass were in fact useful for the purification of the political atmosphere, and served to fit the nation for the more thorough enjoyment of the glorious calm following in their train. There were times when excited organs and orators, in their zeal, warned us of the nearness of rocks upon which the ship of state might be wrecked, but looking back it is easy to see that much of the peril lay in the imagination, which, however, served the useful purpose of keeping us on guard, when carelessness might have resulted in disaster, distant as it was.

The year opened gloomily enough, with a threatened subversion of the popular will to usurpation in a section of the country where revolutionary purposes were least to be suspected. The tricks taught by Southern Returning Boards unexpectedly found imitators in Maine, and if the Fusionists there had been successful in their plans it is impossible to say how the influence of example in such a quarter might have demoralized the public conscience. It might even have paved the way for a false count in the Presidential election. But the warning came in time. Democrats united with the Republicans in condemnation of the contemplated crime of Garcelon, of the larceny of a State, and, backed by a public opinion that was irresistible, Governor Chamberlain baffled the conspirators, gave Maine into the hands of her rightful Governor, and made a repetition of such doings as had been attempted impossible. The Maine struggle was the only political occurrence in the year of more than passing interest, aside from those incidental to or growing out of the Presidential campaign. Congress rested last winter under the shadow of that campaign, the majority and the minority being almost equally unwilling to risk any legislative deliverance that might invite popular criticism and modify party relations, while in the few weeks of the present session the one party has been too sore to move and the other unready to do anything of importance until in full possession of the recaptured machinery of government. In spite, however, of the caution of the leaders it has been a year of regeneration for both of the great political parties. The battle of the people against the "bosses," resulted in a victory for the people, a victory the more significant and full of hope because fought within the party lines. With the Republicans the issue was distinctly joined in the election of delegates to the National Convention and again on the floor of that Convention. In the first engagements the strategy of the "bosses" secured to them the apparent possession of the three great States of New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois, and the prestige of these acquisitions bade fair to be decisive of the general result. But it was ordered otherwise. The very strength of the Bosses, combined with the prestige of a great name under which they fought, engendered a confidence and persistence in arbitrary methods which contributed greatly to their defeat. The unit rule, devised by the machine for the suppression of individual rights, was overthrown and the "bosses" themselves were made to join in affirming once more the principle that no man shall be a third time President of this Republic. The first fruit of this popular victory was the nomination of one of the greatest of Republican statesmen for President and the restoration of many able men who had grown lukewarm in the cause to full fellowship and commanding influence in the party. Under such conditions the Republicans won back every department of the Government, and the party will enter upon the new year with a moral and numerical strength unknown to it since the days of Abraham Lincoln. It is, in fact, a regenerated party, elevated in its leadership, purified in its principles and aims, homogeneous in mass, going forth upon a new mission of usefulness, conquering and conqueror.

The Democrats as a party have less cause for satisfaction, but there is reason to believe that out of their adversity, the lines of which now seem so hard, there will come to them also some measure of benefit. It is something for them to have learned, if, indeed, they have the wisdom to take it to heart, that the nation is not prepared even yet to surrender itself to the guardianship of a party with no reason of being, except the desire to have the offices in its own hands; that demagoguery is not to be successful, even in its most deceptive guise; that neither an unsullied uniform nor a well-filled barrel supplies the place of brains for party leadership; that sectionalism will not be tolerated by a people who have paid so dearly for national unity; and that the rising generation is as fully determined as was the passing generation to maintain the integrity of the Union and the principles triumphant in the war of the Rebellion. Whether or not these lessons are comprehended, however, good has accrued to the opposition, in the exposure and consequent dethronement of the selfish purposes and mean methods of those who have by consent of the Democratic masses filled its high places. It is a great thing, for example, that the Southern people in so great a number have been led to renounce the false gods of Bourbonism, which they have served so faithfully in the pitiful hope of being restored to their old power in the administration of the Federal Government, and are beginning to see a worthier alliance, not promising,

indeed, the rehabilitation of the old Southern leaders, but the better condition of the Southern people through the increased prosperity of the whole country; of the South, not as the South, but of the South as a part of the Nation. Nor has the Democracy been benefitted alone by partial emancipation from this Bourbon domination. Even more notable is the fact that it has turned against its unworthy representatives in that great stronghold of the party, New York city. The downfall of John Kelly, brought about, as it was, not from the purest motives, but in the frenzy of a desire for revenge for Kelly's supposed treachery to Hancock, and not without Republican assistance, is an event full of hope to all who would put an end to "boss-ism" in municipal as well as in national government. It is not enough for the purposes of reform that the party in power should be respectable; it is of almost equal importance that the opposition should be respectable, for otherwise there is no sufficient check upon the evil influences at work in our own ranks, and no recourse in case those evil influences gain sway. We bid honest Democrats God-speed in all efforts to reform their organization as well to reform their opinions.

In review, therefore, we note as the net result of the labors of the year in the field of American politics, that there has been a general forward movement in the right direction. The people have asserted themselves in both parties, and are more than ever disposed to hold the would-be leaders to account. The "bosses" everywhere have received wholesome warning, and good men have come to the front with the support of sound public opinion. Sectionalism has been rebuked, and its spirit laid; American industry has received an impulse of great value in the renewed demand for its protection; the Republican party has rescued the Federal Government from unsafe hands and redeemed itself from unwholesome influences; a President has been elected whose record is a guarantee of integrity, peace and prosperity; the people of the several sections have drawn closer than ever together. Financial heresies have been made to slink away into insignificant proportions; the way is cleared for political contests on a more elevated plane, and in general the year 1881 begins most auspiciously for the cause of free government.

THE YEAR ABROAD.

NOTHING in the history of foreign lands during the past year has been so worthy of attention, or so fortunate for the world, as the shift of power in England from Disraeli and the Tories to Gladstone and the Liberals. England, of all the European powers, is the one to which the world looks for a policy friendly to liberty and governed by reason. But under the guidance of Lord Beaconsfield, the opening year found her engaged in a series of selfish intrigues and more selfish wars of aggression, which were called a vigorous foreign policy. Its close finds her in the old place of honor, as a nation which in the main aims at doing righteousness, and honestly in love with fair play, though not always able to see what is fair play. Her policy toward Japan, China and the Transvaal Republic still stains her escutcheon, and the delay in her evacuation of Afghanistan, as well as her decision to profit by the aggressions of the late Ministry in Southern Africa detract from the world's respect for her change of policy. But in the main her face is now in the right direction, and it is the whole world's gain.

Mr. Gladstone's worst problems are not in South Africa but in Ireland. As the year opened, the Irish Land League was a small and rather insignificant organization, struggling rather hopelessly to check the evictions of tenants in the famine-smitten districts of Western Ireland. It was located chiefly in Connaught, with some branches in Munster. It is now confessedly the first social power in Ireland. It has filled the three Southern provinces with its organizations, and is spreading into Ulster, in spite of the resistance of the larger portion of the Orangemen. It has enlisted the people of the towns in its battle for the defence of the tenants. It has stopped not merely evictions, but also the payment of any rent except that based on Griffith's Valuation, upon which Irish taxes have been levied. And it has rallied the great majority of the Irish people, not even excepting the Roman Catholic clergy, to the support of the principle that the Landlords must give place to a peasant proprietorship. All this has not been effected without some of those unhappy excesses that generally attend great popular movements which are not under government direction. But, taken altogether, the Irish people have shown a degree of self-control far in excess of what their best friends expected. Neither the prosecution of their leaders, nor the presence of thirty thousand soldiers in Ireland, has availed in the least to stop the advance of the League, or to provoke the people to violent resistance of the Civil authorities.

The influence exerted by this Irish agitation upon English opinion is matter for conjecture. As in previous instances, and especially as on the eve of the last elections, it is possible to mistake London opinion for that of England at large. There seems no reason to doubt that Mr. Gladstone still commands the support of the people of England in his judgment that great reforms of the Irish land-laws must be effected before peace is restored to the sister island; and that if the resistance of the Peers makes a dissolution necessary, they will sustain him by a

majority equal to that in the present House. The coming session of Parliament may be expected to be one of unusual excitement. That which followed the recent election was such. The struggle over the bill to check evictions in the famine-stricken districts of Ireland, brought all party antagonism to a head, and the rejection of that bill by the Peers did much to provoke an intense excitement in Ireland. It also did much to lower the popular regard for the Upper House, and to make its abolition or modification a matter of general public discussion.

The Republic of France has had a year of secondary excitements, which serve at once to show how well the new government is planted, and also how little the wisdom of its statesmen is accomplishing for its permanence. The frequent rise and fall of cabinets has made the Ministers of the Republic matters of public jest as puppets of a power greater than themselves, while it is felt on all hands that the President of the Corps Legislatif is the power that controls the destinies of France. We think he is using his power to no good purpose. So far from seeking to conciliate the elements which, in France, are unfriendly to the Republic, he has managed to divide the French people more than ever before, through the violent suppression of the religious orders, while he has robbed the republic of a great body of liberal sympathy in lands where Liberalism and persecution are still regarded as antithetical terms.

In Germany there are signs of changes for the better and for the worse. Like all the other champions of strong government, Herr Bismarck seems to grow more despotic as he grows older. He has, indeed, abandoned the war of some years past upon the Catholic Church, and is striving toward a *modus vivendi* with the hierarchy. But his attitude toward the socialists, and the tendencies to repression and restraint shown in all his recent measures, as well as his persistence in the policy which makes an armed camp of the country, are all of evil omen for personal liberty. He is not responsible, however, for the new anti-Jewish crusade, which has found a voice in the Imperial Parliament. The patrons and promoters of that movement are to be sought rather among those who are jealous of the Chancellor than among his friends and supporters.

The condition of the people in Germany is reported as altogether miserable. The period of stimulation and feverish excitement which followed the war of 1870 has passed away, leaving a prostration which the country feels more decidedly than Americans can realize. The social oppression of the military laws is growing constantly more intolerable, and large emigration to our own country and to Brazil is a natural consequence. That this great military establishment may be needed at any moment is quite true. It is not many years since a renewal of the invasion of France was seriously contemplated, and was only prevented, or shall we say postponed, by the intervention of the Czar. All Central Europe is armed to the teeth, in the expectation of a great continental war; and such expectations often bring about their own realization.

In Russia the year opened most gloomily, and it closes gloomily, although in some important respects the auspices are more favorable. The change of the methods of government, represented by the accession of General Loris Melikoff to a power all but despotic, has removed the danger of social anarchy through the success of the Nihilists. The Armenian dictator, by doing away with the oppression exercised by the secret police, rallied the people of the great cities to the support of the government, and made the excesses of Nihilism no longer possible in fact, by removing many of the motives which prompted them. On the other hand, the failure of the crops in considerable districts of the empire has caused a degree of distress little short of famine, and affecting millions of people. But this is a temporary evil, which the government can alleviate and one good harvest will correct, while the plague of Nihilist anarchy might have lasted for ages. The credit of the reforms effected by Melikoff is due in the first instance to the Czarewitch, whose accession to power—probably early in 1881—will open a new era for the empire. Indeed, it is notable that the three principal heirs apparent to European thrones are all much more Liberal in sympathy than the present occupants of those thrones.

The Eastern question has not advanced much nearer to a solution during the year. Bulgaria has settled down under a regular government, but has not abandoned its purpose of securing the addition to its territories of the province created at Berlin, and named Eastern Roumelia. Montenegro has secured, through the aid of the European Concert, the tiny addition to her tiny territory which the Berlin Congress promised; and Greece has had fair warning that whatever she gets of the territory awarded her by the later Berlin conference she must take by the sword. Within the Turkish territories there is no improvement upon the disorder and prostration produced by bad government. The Turks suffer, and the Christians are oppressed almost beyond endurance, so that the Armenians have leagued together for the common defence.

In northern Europe, the uneventful history of the Scandinavian peninsula is enlivened by something like a crisis in the chronic disagreement between Norway and her Swedish king, and it seems not impossible that the most democratic of the kingdoms of Europe will soon seek for independence, if not for a Republican form of government.

The defeat of the Beaconsfield Ministry put a period to a large plan for the rearrangement of England's relations to her colonies. Proposals were under discussion for making the British empire a vast Zollverein, with a tariff upon both raw materials (including food) and manufactured goods brought from other countries into any part of the empire. In this way it was hoped that Canada would be given the English market for grain, and Australia that for wool, while these and other colonies would procure their manufactures exclusively from the British Islands. There is no reason to believe that Mr. Gladstone will listen to such proposals, although they seem to have dazzled his predecessor in office. But the promoters of the scheme have not ceased their agitation for it, and a convention in its interest is to meet in London next month. The history of the colonies, if a colony can be said to have history, is uneventful. In the Dominion there has been a steady growth of dissatisfaction in the coast provinces on each side of the Continent, and the effort making to have the Canadian Pacific Railroad finished is meant to remove this dissatisfaction in British Columbia. On the whole, the year has not been one of great events abroad, while it has been one rather of gains than of losses for mankind. The reign of "right reason and the will of God," while not visibly and swiftly hastened during its course, has made advances enough to cheer us with hope for the future.

AMERICAN MANNERS.

When we speak of the characteristic feature of any class, person or object, we do not mean some quality which it alone possesses, and is common to no other, nor one which is necessarily its predominant trait; but we mean some quality which it possesses in a pre-eminent degree, as compared with other classes, persons or objects, and by which it may be distinguished from them. If, on this principle, we try to determine the characteristic feature of American society, that trait by which it may be most readily distinguished from the societies of other countries, we do not find it to be hypocrisy, nor frivolity, nor sensuality, nor a mercenary spirit, nor servility; all of which it indeed possesses in common with those societies, though happily in a less degree than they. It would rather seem to be marked by a lack of grace, elegance, refinement and dignity, the absence of which qualities might be more forcibly expressed by a single word—vulgarity. This is a hard saying, for we are apt to be more sensitive to such deficiencies than to our greater sins; and it would have required much more humility of spirit for the publican to say—"I am a vulgar person," than to acknowledge himself a miserable sinner. But it is only after a man is conscious of his ailment that he can seek its cure. The first step in treatment is diagnosis; only when the character of the disorder is determined can the remedy be applied.

It is true, indeed, that we cannot, as a nation, lay claim to any exclusive possession of vulgarity, and we can number more than one hundred righteous men by whom we may save the city.

It is true, likewise, that this lack of grace, elegance and dignity in our national deportment does not imply any deep-seated, radical unsoundness; but is a disease that may affect only the surface, and go but skin-deep, while the body itself may be strong and healthy, and all the organs fulfilling their proper functions. Our social condition is, doubtless, in many respects more honest, more wholesome, and less self-seeking than that of most older civilizations; but it is a well established fact, and one of common experience, that a fair exterior does much to adorn and recommend all sorts of good mental and moral qualities.

"Nature," says Thackeray, who was by no means blind to the social tares among the wheat of an old civilization, "does make some gentlemen—a few here and there, but Art makes most. Good birth, that is good, handsome, well-formed fathers and mothers, nice cleanly nursery-maids, good education, few cares, pleasant, easy habits of life, and luxuries, not too great or enervating, but only refining—a course of these, going on for a few generations, are the best gentlemen-makers in the world, and beat Nature hollow."

But to bring these influences fully and generally to bear upon society requires the existence of that "permanent leisure class," which this country cannot properly be said to possess. Such a class brings with it an atmosphere of refinement, a certain hereditary deportment, ample opportunities of culture, and many traditional untaught graces of manner, possessed with consciousness of their acquisition.

In a country where rank in itself gives prestige, and sets apart a class for the admiration and emulation of the rest of the nation, those who possess it, and who may be supposed to enjoy more constantly than others the advantages which Thackeray enumerates, give a tone to the deportment of all ranks, and a certain uniformity of manner to their social inferiors. Thus it is possible in England for the valet that brushes his coat, and the housemaid that dusts his room to speak with a purity of intonation, and a finish and correctness of accent, that might be imitated with advantage in many a "seminary for the instruction of young ladies."

Much time and care is now being bestowed in securing the best possible educational advantages for the young women of this generation.

Efforts are being constantly and successfully made to open to them the doors to all the pathways of knowledge, to teach them enough, if they aspire to no independent field of action, to make them intelligent, agreeable companions, and cultivated, liberal-minded members of society. We do all this, and we allow them to carry away with their prizes and diplomas, voices totally untrained, loud, unmodulated and discordant; voices that would discredit the wisdom of Solomon if uttered in such tones. What musician would expend time and care and labor on a musical composition and leave his instrument so woefully out of tune?

English nightingales are a gift of nature, and so are English voices, but no voice, even if its natural quality be thin and unmusical, need be offensive if properly modulated and repressed. If this department of education received more attention, receptions and "afternoon teas" need not be the pandemonium they so often seem to an outside listener; scenes not calculated to refresh the spirit and soothe the nerves of men who have been engaging all day in any of the numerous, untroubled "down-town" avocations. The ear should be trained to be fastidious in choice of language, as sensitive to a slovenly accent, illiterate expressions and an untutored voice as to musical discords. Society still has its shibboleth of refinement, and tone, accent and diction betray training and surroundings as surely as the presence of certain plants indicates certain qualities of soil, or certain conditions of temperature. Little provincialisms and local peculiarities of pronunciation also go far to destroy elegance. The Baltimore drawl, the flat Philadelphia twang, the extreme Boston accent are all objectionable and disagreeable, but these local traits are fast being modified by increased intercourse and foreign travel.

Of these defects we are many of us conscious, and the number of those who are so is increasing. Our social peculiarities are becoming a favorite topic with American authors. In this department of literature Mr. James is conspicuous and has been here particularly successful, as his very forte lies in a quick perception of local color and shades of manner, and a fine sense of differences rather than of resemblances, for he can better detect and describe how an Englishman differs from a Frenchman, a German from an Italian, and an American from each and all, than he can depict the human nature which they possess in common. He holds up to our inspection the aspect and sayings and doings, as they are peculiarly their own, of various classes of American girls, much as he would turn and examine an insect upon a pin. Carefully and curiously he marks her slender, graceful shape, her bright colors, her gauzy wings and her shrill, discordant note. The "Confessions of a Frivolous Girl," though a much coarser piece of work than Mr. James's microscopic studies, and very obviously exaggerated, shows that a society of which it could be even a parody leaves much to be desired in point of refinement; though the author seems to find it rather amusing than otherwise that the free, confident manners, and the inelegant familiar tone of conversation of even the least objectionable of the girls he describes, should be possible among his countrywomen.

Good manners are hardly a positive accomplishment to be acquired like spelling or arithmetic. They consist not so much in adopting or assuming certain definite, ornamental forms, usages or expressions, as in repressing many impulses which would jar upon the feelings of the civilized man. The penal code has been gradually evolved and elaborated for the protection of our rights; the social code has been in like manner developed and perfected for the protection of our sensibilities. It almost requires the abuse of good manners to teach us the full value of their use; so that they may come to be, as it were, "more honored in the breach than in the observance." It is not till we see a man eating with his knife, that we duly feel the importance of the use of the fork as an early accomplishment. A loud, vulgar laugh, and a harsh, shrill voice make us prize, as we never prized before, the gentle voice which is "so excellent a thing in woman." An honest, well-disposed man, with no cowardly spirit, may go astray and lose caste among men in some trifling circumstance, from want of an early familiarity with a gentleman's sensitive, unwritten code of honor and fine perception of fitness. Tact, that most precious of social virtues, consists far more in the avoidance of rocks and shoals, than in any brilliant manœuvring.

There are two causes, among many others, that prevent good manners from being the matter of course that they should be in the women and girls of our society. One is the apparent indifference of many parents, who are themselves persons of refinement, and their neglect of definite home training; and the other, which would go far to neutralize even careful family influence, is the practice of crowding girls together in big, fashionable schools in large cities. Fashionable schools are one of the favorite and well-recognized means of social progression among people of newly acquired wealth. They send their daughters to such a school, not because they think that there they will receive the best education and most careful training, but to form an advantageous connection. Because there they may meet, and if possible become intimate with, the daughters of men of assured position, and by this means they may, in their future social career, which their parents desire to make

as brilliant as possible, cross certain sacred thresholds that would otherwise be closed to them. This association, though it doubtless improves the manners of the aspirants, must tend to lower the general level of refinement. If a fine were required by parent and teacher for every word of slang, for every piece of careless grammar, for every illiterate expression, the pocket-money of the girls would be quite as profitably, and nearly as quickly, expended as if it found its way into confectioners, and candy-shops. Many people who would shudder at the thought of sending their daughters to a female college, would not hesitate to expose them to these influences. And yet it may well be questioned whether their refinement would suffer as much in the former case as in the latter. People can never be utterly vulgar while they are really in earnest, and most of the girls and women who fill the classes of their colleges, go there with the desire and purpose, sometimes hardly fought for and dearly purchased, of learning something, and qualifying themselves for some sort of work in the world. Vulgarity of thought, as well as vulgarity of expression, would be much more likely to be found among girls whose home surroundings were not refined, and whose ambitions were exclusively social, than among women whose time and thoughts were occupied with more serious subjects. Mr. Mallock expresses a truth of which we are all more or less conscious, when he makes Laurence say: "I declare I could tell better whether a man was really cultivated from the way in which he talked gossip or told a story, than from the way in which he discussed a poem or a picture."

Good manners have unfortunately got into a sort of disrepute among many very excellent people, from a supposed want of sincerity inherent in politeness, an implied want of correspondence between what we say and what we think, what we feel and what we do. But this is, after all, no greater than the discrepancy that dress and the little personal amenities of civilization produce between what we seem and what we are. The present standard requires that the well-bred man should wear some clothing on his mind as well as on his body, and naked human nature has fallen into almost as great disrepute as naked humanity. Bad manners are at the root of half the jarrings and domestic disputes that disfigure life, and are far more hurtful than the innocent hypocrisy of not scowling at our neighbor, though we privately think him a bore, and even say so when his back is turned, and not telling another that he is a fool and a liar, though we think him to be the one and know him to be the other.

The material progress of this country within the last few years has taken even ourselves by surprise, has revealed unexpected resources, and surpassed the predictions of even the most sanguine patriotism. We have stepped out into the arena of nations, and have become a power that is felt among them; we have undermined some of their sources of wealth and are threatening others. And what is the secret of our strength, the weapons by which we have won this position? It is not by the impetus of great intellectual advancement, nor by fleets and armies, as conquests of old were made; but by our beef and our pork, our wheat and our cotton, our mills and our foundries, our mines and our prairies, by a vast weight of massive material prosperity that must crush in its progress many small industries and many modest, gentle, tranquil habits of life.

This is beyond all other ages the age, and more than all other countries the country, in which those classes that in former times were designated in various terms of contempt as "*οἱ πολλοί*," the "*ignobile vulgus*," the "*canaille*," "the masses," have found the means to rise and detach themselves from their surroundings. While this condition of things brings with it the righting of many wrongs, we are in danger of losing some of those finer flowers of the older growth, that would adorn and soften our confident prosperity. We have lost or cast aside some of the older traditions and ideas; we are too busy, too hurried, too jostled for the slow natural development of finer instincts and more elegant habits. There is a disposition to let manners alone, or to take them, like our clothes, ready-made. This is apparent in the rapidly growing inclination to adopt English manners and customs. Imitation, especially conscious imitation, is never the highest development in art or morals, but it is the chief instrument in the early stages of education. If education consists, as Adam Smith once said, in directing vanity upon the proper objects, so it also consists in furnishing the imitative instinct with worthy objects of imitation. But the imitative instinct is not always a very discriminating one. It is unfortunate that our men of leisure, instead of adopting the follies of the English nobility, and many of their amusements and extravagant habits, that are totally unsuited to our institutions and mode of living, should not rather take as their models another class of English gentlemen who are very numerous. They would do well to imitate their elegant education and liberal culture, their deep and intelligent interest in politics and philanthropy, their simple, healthy mode of life, and their generous and laborious devotion to objects of public utility.

But nations are even slower than individuals in profiting by experience, which is a consciousness of our own successes and blunders and a perception of the blunders and successes of others. A nation cannot be moulded as an individual can, by subjecting it to the influence of a constant set of ideas and surroundings, and most nations have to work

their own salvation, political and social, in their own slow, clumsy, tentative way. We can only hope that Manners may be the next branch of a liberal education that shall commend itself to the notice of ambitious mothers, and all who are interested in our social progress and standing among other nations.

LITERATURE.

INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE.

THE question of International copyright, which for nearly a century has been discussed with sophomoric eloquence by Literary Societies, and debated with the violence of a personal quarrel by authors and publishers on both sides of the Atlantic, seems to be in the way of finding a solution for itself (as genuine forces in the physical and moral world ultimately do, if left to themselves), and that, too, in a way the most unexpected by both the advocates of free-trade and protection in literary property. Since the subject was originally mooted, and Charles Dickens, like a modern Don Quixotte, undertook the perils and inconveniences of a sea voyage in its behalf, and lost his temper over his want of success, it has gone through many phases of a remarkable evolution, but in doing so has obeyed only natural laws. Respectability is a legitimate child of prosperity, and, as in politics success makes even the revolutionist a conservative, so there is a point where self-interest can only protect itself by recognizing the interests of others. It is by no means to be wondered at, therefore, that among the latest and warmest advocates of literary copyright are men who formerly found their profit in opposing it. It is not the present writer's purpose, however, to discuss either the rights or wrongs, the expediency or the reverse of the question, but to observe only the manner in which it is being solved. Two very interesting facts are sufficient to indicate it. One, that arrangements are being made, it is rumored, with every probability of success, to issue the *Journal of Biology*, published at the University of Cambridge, England, simultaneously in this country under the aegis of the Johns-Hopkins University of Baltimore; the other, the *fait accompli* of the contemporaneous publication of *Harper's Magazine* in New York and London, with only such changes in the editorial department as local interests necessitate. This is not the first time a similar enterprise has been attempted. *The Art Journal*, published by the Messrs. Appleton, is a modified edition of the London monthly bearing the same title; but the idea has never before been so radically carried out. It is to be hoped that the venture will prove successful, as on the experiment many interests depend which it seems impossible to protect otherwise.

The main difficulty in the way of an International copyright law was originally the opposition of the publishers, who were able to take advantage of its non-existence to enrich themselves, supported by an indifference of a public fond of reading, who did not object to receive for a shilling a work of Thackeray or Macaulay, which it cost their English cousins thrice as many guineas to possess. It was a question of Political Economy, while it continued to be argued from a petty and personal standpoint, with the acrimony peculiar to such logic. The abuse which the whole country received from the Halls, Trollopes and Dickens's in consequence, did more to prevent than assist the consummation they so devoutly desired.

The publishers were, after all, abused much beyond their deserts. Morally, in its ideal significance, it is true that the responsibility of a wrong rests with the perpetrators of it, but practically an excuse may be, and is, found in certain cases.

"I thought, Jean, there was some cognac left in this decanter?"

"It is true, M. le Marquis, but I drank it—to prevent Baptiste from drinking it!"

This illustration is from a French caricaturist, and there is a touch of saving grace in it and similar excuses. If a thing is bound to be done in any event, why not profit by it as well as another? has been the question that has turned the scale in many a doubtful decision. But if the booksellers looked only to their own advantage, the tacit connivance of the book-buyers condoned, to the extent of justifying, their conduct. A few were injured in purse, but the many were apparently benefitted. The author, after all, if his work had been well done, was paid for it at home, and the fame acquired in having his name circulated wherever the English language was spoken, was also a recompense not to be despised! Thus, while ready enough to show their gratitude to the writer who amused or instructed them, if he came in their midst, by fêtes and dinners, the public continued, nevertheless, to read the pirated editions, and the publishers to print them in despite of the reproaches of despoiled authors and their own consciences. They could afford it as long as they had the monopoly of the business, and they did so with the resignation of church-goers who were more or less charitable, and some of them, when they had acquired wealth (and to secure precedence in the market) have been known to dole part of it to the English writer himself—for advance sheets. A monopoly founded upon legislation may continue to exist as long at least as the law itself is binding, but those based upon the absence of it are more difficult to protect. Thus it has happened that even advance sheets scarcely forestalled competition. Publishers who wish to be just and gentlemanly are so at their own peril, and it has gone so far that it has become difficult, if not impossible, to print a decent edition of a foreign work that shall be remunerative. The new departure in periodical literature is calculated to reconcile to some extent the interests of both writers and the public with that of the publishers. The international magazines will naturally largely increase their circulation at but little additional expense beyond that of the extra press work. The example already set will not fail to be followed, and competition will result in the authors and artists of both countries being better paid, in better work being done, and the public more cheaply served. The English edition of "*Harper*" costs but a shilling, and the price must therefore be reduced forty per cent. here, or it will be crowded from the book-stalls by an American edition—say of "*Cornhill*" or "*Blackwood*," pub-

lished at fifteen or twenty cents. (Which is possible if a profit can be made on the reprints of the *Nineteenth Century*, *Contemporary* and *Fortnightly Reviews*, sold at the latter price,—with an instalment of a novel thrown in!) It would not be surprising if, before long, even *Punch* should become a cosmopolite, with cartoons by Keppler as well as Tenniel, and contributions from Dr. Holmes and Mark Twain, beside the "happy thoughts" of Burnand.

The proposed publication of the *English Scientific Journal* under the conjoint auspices of the two universities, is, however, of still wider significance. There are no economical or speculative reasons for it. It will be done in the interest of science, and of a branch than which none can be more universal. It is a recognition alike of the ability of American scholars, and the extent to which the American public is interested in learned investigations. The munificence of Johns Hopkins has been admirably turned to account, and the institution which bears his name has grown rapidly in reputation and influence. This has not been the result only of the work which the vigorous corps of professors and fellows have shown themselves equal to accomplish, but is due, perhaps, even more to the tact and executive ability of President Gilman. The ease and rapidity with which he has set this most complicate machine in motion, all in entire harmony, "cycle and epicycle orb in orb," is very gratifying. Without digressing, however, it is sufficient to state that at his suggestion the "*American Journal of Mathematics*" was begun, which has already in its second year now a position at the head of such publications, and possibly contributed to the honor just conferred upon Professor Sylvester, the editor in chief, of the Copley Medal by the Royal Society. The "*Mathematical*" has already as colleagues the *Philological* and the *Chemical Journals*, conducted respectively by Professors Gildersleeve and Remsen, which, taken in connection with the "*Biological Papers*" prepared by Professor Martin, and the *Monthly Reports of the University*, form a current scientific literature unequalled in the ground it covers, and the energy and ability it has demonstrated, and justifying the compliment paid to the youthful institution by its venerable and stately English compeer.

Another pleasant reflection finds corroboration in the facts above stated, which is that the intellectual advance of America is keeping step with its material progress. As all roads formerly led to Rome, so now they are all converging to our Republic. If a library or a collection of works of art is to be sold abroad, what is rarest and choicest is pretty sure, according to the testimony of the United States Departmental Agency in London, to find its way to our shores; and our exchanges are no longer limited to products of agriculture and mechanics only. The new enterprise of the Messrs. Harper is justified by the foreign demand for American literature and art which has already exhibited itself in other ways. Which would be the most remunerative commercially to all interested—an International copyright or an International literature?—may remain an open question, but there can be no doubt but that, until the first be attainable, the second will serve as an excellent substitute, and will pay not only in money, but in drawing nearer together the interests and sympathies of the two branches of the one great Anglo-Saxon family who are standing, and have stood, shoulder to shoulder, as Tennyson once remarked in a private conversation, "the bulwark that keeps the world from swinging back to despotism."

LIFE AND TIMES OF GOETHE.—There are certain families in Germany who, without actual kinship, yet claim a sort of hereditary connection with Goethe. The descendants of the many women to whom he entrusted his heart for longer or shorter periods, feel dignified at the thought that their grandmothers were jilted by Germany's greatest poet. They have heard the venerable ladies with white puffs, while knitting on the interminable stocking, recall with pride the days when Goethe whispered flippant gallantries in their ears. The grandchildren have heard a hundred times just how he looked, what he wore, what he said, until they feel as if they had known him personally and could add to the knowledge of the world concerning him. Their grandmother assumes a semi-heroic character in their eyes, and they make haste to have her portrait engraved for an illustrated newspaper, the moment she is dead. In this wise the Goethe tradition grows year by year more voluminous; imaginary traits are gradually added to the real ones, and a mythological haze slowly envelops the historical facts, and imperceptibly blends with them, until fact and fiction seem inseparable. Some day, perhaps, as Mr. Grimm suggests in his introduction, the very existence of the poet will be questioned, and the vastness of his varied achievements will furnish the most plausible argument for proving that he was not an individual, but a collective name for the total achievements of an age. Thus the Wolfian theory has disposed of Homer; and Shakespeare, in spite of authentic portraits, has repeatedly been dissolved into impersonal mist.

Mr. Herman Grimm, who for many years has been professor of the history of art at the University of Berlin, belongs to a family in which both authorship and worship of Goethe are hereditary. From his mother-in-law, the eccentric Bettina, who figured for a while before the public as "Goethe's child-love," he must have received the whole mythological tradition concerning the poet, and it is greatly to his credit that he has accepted so little of it as absolutely historical. And yet, in spite of his critical sagacity and his power of description, Mr. Grimm has done much towards encouraging the mythological view of Goethe, whom he treats as if he were not a subject for praise and censure, but exalted above criticism, like the sun or the moon or the forces of nature. If the poet commits an act of questionable wisdom or morality (of which, indeed, he committed several), he is defended not on the ground that his youth or the ardor of his nature led him astray, but it is seriously maintained that the reprehensible act was, in his case, wise, or at least unobjectionable, and that if he had acted otherwise he would not have been true to his genius. The next step in this dispersonating process will be to declare boldly that he was a sun-myth.

With this reservation, one can hardly award too much praise to the book (*Life and Times of Goethe*, by Hermann Grimm, translated by Sarah Holland Adams.), as a

picture of the century in which Goethe lived. The court and society of Weimar under Carl August, are described with delightful minuteness; the reader is made to breathe the atmosphere of the little Thuringian capital, he learns to sympathize with the tuft-hunting inhabitants in their mania for diaries, their ambition for advancement at court and their other innocent foibles, and before he closes the volume he feels as if he could safely undertake to act as *cicerone* for a stranger in the Weimar of a hundred years ago, and point out to him all the notabilities whom he might chance to meet in the streets. The novellistic talent of making persons and scenes vividly present to the sense, Professor Grimm possesses in an eminent degree; but there is in this very talent a hidden disadvantage, as it constitutes a perpetual temptation to the mind to overstep the limits of reality, and to make occasional excursions into the alluring regions of the imagination. Several instances of this occur in various portions of the book, and more especially where the author expends a superfluous amount of ingenuity in unraveling the beginnings and the steady progress of Goethe's relation to Schiller. To us it appears that, in his desire to exalt Goethe, Mr. Grimm has not only underrated Schiller's genius but also done injustice to his noble character. When, for instance, he interprets Schiller's letters to Körner, while he is anticipating his first meeting with Goethe, as meaning something different from what the words express, it is evidently the novelist Grimm who steps to the front and bids his brother, the historian, momentarily retire.

It is needless to say that in relating Goethe's various love affairs, in their chronological order, Mr. Grimm is at his best. All his power of description and his subtlety in interpreting motives here come into play, and although the narrative often reads like a romance, the author takes pains to adduce proofs and quote documents and thus succeeds in removing all doubts as to his credibility. The little episode with the humble Gretchen in Frankfort, which Goethe relates so charmingly in his autobiography, is not alluded to, and in tracing the psychological origin of Gretchen in "Faust," Mr. Grimm, with a curious persistency, derives her entirely from Frederika at Sesenheim. He even regards her "fascinating pertness of manner" as a trait borrowed from Frederika, although to our mind Frederika is far from being pert, while Gretchen of Frankfort possessed emphatically this characteristic. Bayard Taylor, in his notes to "Faust," has, we think, betrayed a much deeper insight in accounting for the origin of Faust's Margaret. In relating the little idyl of Sesenheim, Mr. Grimm follows the autobiography closely, but frequently questions its correctness, and in fact assumes the rôle of Goethe's defender against himself. By the perfection of his literary art, he thinks, Goethe did injustice to his own character, by giving himself the appearance of having abandoned a sweet and innocent girl, whose loveliness would make his desertion of her seem little less than brutal. The choice of epithets is of minor importance; but, in spite of the biographer's skilful pleading, the facts remain essentially unaltered.

Quite different was Goethe's relation to Charlotte Buff, and yet not so widely different as hitherto we have been accustomed to believe. And here Mr. Grimm, it must be admitted, adds new facts to our previous knowledge. It was, after all, he who abandoned Lotte, while giving himself the appearance of having been abandoned by her, or rather despairing because of the hopelessness of gaining her. That was a diplomatic stroke, and a very clever one; and it left Lotte with the reputation, which she proudly bore to her death, of having inspired the greatest poet of his time with a hopeless and unrequited passion.

If she had been wise enough to burn all her correspondence before she died, she would have borne that reputation yet, and Goethe would have had the credit of having, presumably, made a misalliance in his later life, because his early disappointment had embittered him. His subsequent engagement to Lillie Schönemann, might, perhaps, have interfered with this theory, but as that, too, was speedily broken, it might have been disposed of as a mere passing fancy, a consolation in sorrow, or even as a diverting experience. Mr. Grimm adds little to what was already known of Lillie, except that in maturer years she fondly cherished the memory of Goethe, and sent him a touching message, which reached him two years before his death. And this message is of especial value, as furnishing inferential proof (if such proof were needed) that Goethe was, in no sense, a libertine, but, on the contrary, full of delicate consideration for the good names of the ladies whom he honored with his homage. It must be well remembered that the intercourse between young men and women in Europe was, in the last century, considerably freer and more unrestrained than it is now, and that a certain emotional extravagance which found its expression in sentimental diaries and confessions, was characteristic of the daily relations of those classes of society which were conscious of having souls. Read only the correspondence of Frau von Kalb with Schiller and Jean Paul, Schiller's with Körner and Frau von Wollzogen, Goethe's with Jacobi, etc., and no other evidence will be needed to show how radically the tone and spiritual atmosphere of the age have changed. It follows, from what has been said, that Mr. Grimm exonerates Goethe from all blame in his relation to Frau von Stein, and we are of opinion that he has presented a strong and almost irresistible argument. When, however, he undertakes indirectly to justify the *liaison* and subsequent marriage to Christiane Vulpius, we are forced to take exception. But for that mis-step fate revenged itself upon Goethe with relentless severity, and it must have been with a profound conviction of its truth that he wrote:

"For every guilt is e'en on earth avenged."

Miss Adams's translation betrays a very defective knowledge both of English and of German, and is full of unpardonable blunders. We take at random a few examples. While it is perfectly proper in German to use the definite article before a proper name, as for instance in *Die Flachsland*, meaning Miss Flachsland, there is no excuse for speaking of *The Flachsland* in English, especially as the article in that case does not suffice to indicate the gender. *Der Karl, der Jacob* are frequent expressions in German, while no one says *the Charles* and *the James* in English, unless he refers to steamboats or rivers of those names. So, also, it is utterly absurd to speak of the

"Jungen Goethe." It is in the nominative case, "Der Junge Goethe", or if Miss Adams prefers, the "Junge Goethe," substituting the English article for the German. As specimens of style the following extracts are unique: "Goethe himself speaks of this so openly, accustoming himself of having yielded to this tendency where important questions were involved, that it can be spoken of confidently." (p. 127.)

"The oversight of a university devolved upon him, which in those days was of far greater importance to Germany than it is now, where he called into existence or promoted institutions for scientific purposes, organized public criticism and prescribed its direction."

It is, however, fair to admit that the last half of the book shows a greater fluency of style, less awkwardness in the construction of sentences, and a smaller number of infelicitous phrases than the first-half. Little, Brown & Co. Boston, 1880.

PRIMER OF FRENCH LITERATURE, by George Saintsbury.—This is an admirable little book. It is welcome and greatly needed. In one series or another we have had primers of English, Latin, Greek, German, Spanish, and even American literature, but until now no one had told the story of French literature with straightforward simplicity and within the limits of a primer. And no literature can be so well considered in a primer as the French, for, as Mr. Saintsbury takes care to remind us on his first page and on his last, its position is unique in that its history covers a long space of time "without any sensible break in the manifestation of real and living literary activity," and, again, in that the French language has altered so little since it began to be written, that its earliest specimens can be read to-day with but slight difficulty by an intelligent Frenchman. This is not the case with any other language and literature. The oldest monuments of English literature, for example, "are older by perhaps six or seven hundred years than the oldest monuments of French literature proper. But they are not intelligible to modern Englishmen without much pains, and they are followed by centuries of sterility and stagnation." No English writer is more competent to tell briefly the story of this literature than Mr. Saintsbury. He is known to us chiefly by his acute and suggestive essays on modern French authors, scattered through recent English reviews and magazines; and by his carefully considered articles on "French Literature," in the new edition of the *Cyclopædia Britannica*. He brings to the task an ample fund of information, a keen sense of proportion, and a sufficient style. There is no hint of "cramming" or of hastily "getting up" the subject; Mr. Saintsbury writes from the fulness of knowledge. If we may credit a chance sentence in a recent English critical weekly, this primer is but the first draft of a large and important history of French literature—a work needed almost as much as the primer itself. In this little book one feels at times that the space is somewhat too restricted for Mr. Saintsbury to work freely and at ease. It is simpler and less striking than Mr. Stopford Brooke's marvellous "Primer of English Literature"; it is more commonplace and less penetrating. It resembles rather Mr. Jebb's well-made and workmanlike "Primer of Greek Literature." Its skeleton is not quite as distinct as either of these. We miss the full-faced type which announced the subject of each paragraph, and which forced each paragraph to be complete in itself. The use of this typographical device may be abused (as it is in the series of "Classical Writers," for instance), but it helps both reader and writer.

Before taking leave of Mr. Saintsbury, we must note a few peculiarities of style, of the kind which he, reviewing an American book in the *Academy*, might be tempted to animadvert upon as instances of that pestilent thing, much dreaded of all English critics—an Americanism. On page 86 we find "in this connection." On page 102 is a clause introduced by "but which," there being no preceding "which." On page 116, for "antiquaries," we have "antiquarians," for the use of which an American writer was berated in *Notes and Queries* only the other day. And on page 117, we have "resemblance with" for "resemblance to." Of course these are trifles, and detract little from the merits of a very meritorious book, which we take pleasure in recommending cordially. Clarendon Press Series, MacMillan & Co., New York. Also Harper's Half Hour Series, Harper Brothers. New York: 1880.

FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY. By Joseph Henry Allen.—There are two methods of writing history—the sociological, or that which deals with the genesis and development of institutions and ideas, and the pictorial or biographical. Mr. Allen works by the latter method, and it is the more attractive and satisfactory of the two. The present work is both interesting and solid. The author modestly calls it "but a slender gleanings in a wide field." A vast amount of material has, however, been worked over and winnowed for this work. The work claims to fill a gap in the literature of the subject by viewing it in its ethical character, and it is a study of the moral forces and the "ethical passion" of Christianity; of its "grand sincerities," and especially of the lives of its great thinkers. The author's method of finding a key to any series of events is to penetrate at once to the inner and prime motives of the great inspirers of the events. He gets at their own words in their native languages, and finds in homely incidents and chance words a key to their actions. He concentrates, as it were, the strong light of a solar microscope upon the central figures among the shadowy millions of the past, maintaining that the great men of a period make it what it is, and that if we get vivid pictures of their lives we have the key to everything else. There is a good deal to be said in favor of this plan, but it should be supplemented by works like the *Sociology* of Spencer, the fifth volume of the *Philosophie Positive* of Comte, or by such writers as Flint, Vico, or Montesquieu. Mr. Allen's style is clear and agreeable, and his diction rich. There is a chronological outline of the book, and an index. Roberts Brothers. Boston: 1880. Pp. xx, 284.

MODERN SOCIETY; two lectures, by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe. Both these were, we believe, pretty fully reported by the press; but the mature thought and ample scholarship embodied in them make it well worth while to publish them in book form. Mrs. Howe's opinions on any subject are worthy of attention. The argument of the first lecture is that Humanity is a thing of oppositions which do not exclude but complement one another. The unitary principle which unites them is the desire of the good. The problem of society is how to use its vast resources. "Modern society is chiefly occupied with a vast assimilation of novelties." "*Non possumus*," say the priests of the old order. "*Possum*, replies the eternal power." In the discussion of the oppositions of society, Mrs. Howe gives much interesting personal reminiscence, and in treating of American Society, dwells upon the painful conspicuousness of the mammon worship that pervades all its parts. In her lecture on *Changes in American Society*, she reiterates the assertion made at Concord about the mental timidity and virtual venality of many newspapers of the day. Roberts Brothers, Boston, 1881. pp. 38.

WAYSIDE FLOWERS is the title of a volume of poems by "S. C." They have a religious tone, and are characterized by pensiveness and a subdued melancholy. The volume is pretty in design. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. 1881. Pp. 163.

THE CRIMSON HAND and other poems, by Rosa Vertner Jeffrey, is a volume of verse by no means unreadable. The author has a rich, though undisciplined imagination. A portrait of the author is prefixed to the volume, which is tastefully gotten up. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. 1881. Pp. 200.

"YE last sweet thing in corners," is a happy little satire upon the decorative art rage. It is beautifully printed and as handsomely bound. The text is very readable. It is dedicated to Lord Dufferin. Duncan & Hall, Philadelphia. 66 pp.

DRIFT.

—The custom of Christmas annuals has never obtained as widely in this country as in England, where the influence of Dickens has prescribed that Christmas must be a time of mirth and merriment. Not a few American papers however issue Christmas numbers, and two or three put forth annuals or almanacs of one kind or another. *Puck's Annual* for 1881 is a profusely illustrated little book, quite equal in merit to the best of the English comic annuals—which is not saying very much. It contains over a hundred pages of "comic copy" of the kind familiar to all who read *Puck* itself. Two at least of the contributions rise above the level of newspaper humor and have a right to be considered as literature. One is a fine and keen bit of *vers de société*, by Mr. F. H. Robertson, of Kentucky, who under the pen-name of "Quibble Yarrow" is known to the readers of the *Bric-a-brac* in *Scribner's* and of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. The second is the very remarkable contribution of Mr. V. Hugo Dusenbury, the "Professional Poet," whose serid view of the divine art has provided *Puck* with a series of letters and poems of the most laughable and truthful nature. The present contribution contains singularly close parodies of Walt Whitman, Austin Dobson and Omar Hayyan.

—The *North American Review* for January has a forcible paper by Prof. John Fiske, upon the decline of the spirit of Religious Persecution, in which the inadequacy of Buckle's explanation of this phenomenon is commented on and further reasons given by the Professor. Senator Edmunds writes upon "Controlling Forces in American Politics," and the other articles are: "Atheism in Colleges," by President John Bascom; "The Ruins of Central America," by Desire Charnay; "Partisan Government," by William D. Le Sueur; "Popular Art-Education," by Prof. John F. Weir; "The Limitations of Sex," by Nina Morais; "The Mission of the Democratic Party," by Senator William A. Wallace; and finally, a review of Recent Philological Works, by Prof. F. A. March.

—J. B. Lippincott & Co. have in press "A Village Commune," by Ouida; "Belles and Ringers," by Hawley Smart; and a volume of poems by Hon. J. F. Simmons, late Chancellor of the Mississippi State Courts.

—Two books of decided interest to students of contemporary foreign history have just been issued from German presses. One is the speeches and published despatches of Bismarck, the interviews he has granted for particular reasons, the "inspired" articles that have appeared in his organs, and the documents relating to Eastern affairs and the Congress of Berlin. It already comes down to 1879, and is to be continued. Its value may be imagined, though it does not, of course, contain the precious secret letters in which the fates of states and sovereigns have been decided, nor are we likely ever to have any authentic account of the conferences between Bismarck and Gortschakoff, or Andrassy, or Beust, at which understandings were arrived at and agreements made, no mention of which appears on any document or register of the chancelleries. The other work is by "Gregor Samaroff"—Privy Councillor Meding, who in these "Memoirs" gives us the inside history of the overthrow and absorption of Hanover in 1866, a subject already dealt with partially by Hansen, in his "Behind the Diplomatic Scenes."

—A new edition of Victor Hugo's *Toilers of the Sea* is in preparation, in which all the vigorous sketches with which the author illustrated the margins of his MS. will be reproduced in *fac-simile*.

—A writer in the last number of the *London Notes and Queries* gives some curious facts concerning the origin of the word "Snob." The word once meant "cobbler," (Hone's *Every-Day Book*, ii. 337). About the year 1824 it began to be used at Cambridge, Eng., to designate a townsman as opposed to a university man. In No. 6 of the *Gownsmen* (the little paper which, it will be remembered, Thackeray helped to edit at Cambridge) the word "snob" is defined as "not a gownsmen; therefore a low vulgar fellow." The writer in *Notes and Queries* continues as follows: "I should attribute to Thackeray's own genius the wider application of the opprobrious term, and to the popularity of his *Snob Papers*, which appeared originally in *Punch* a dozen years or so later, the general adoption of it. It appears that in some American colleges the word was still used as lately as 1856 to designate a townsman as opposed to a student."

—M. Zola, the French novelist, has written an essay on *l'argent en littérature* (or the wages of literature), and the *Saturday Review* publishes a rather caustic article upon M. Zola and his essay. It appears from the discussion that what deprived early authors of remuneration for their work, was not lack of readers, but the state of the copyright, the knavery of booksellers, and the carelessness of the authors themselves: hence the humiliating necessity of resorting to patronage. M. Zola thinks that in modern times any young man of talent and energy can add literature to his journalism, and find time to write books or plays—making a good deal of money in both professions. But it appears that publishers in France only pay the author a royalty of from ten to twenty cents per volume sold; and that even for a successful novel the author can only make on an average about \$400. It is hard to see the encouragement to authors in such a state of things. It is curious to note that the opinion of this French *littérateur* about journalism and literature is precisely the inverse of that of the American *littérateur*, Mr. T. W. Higginson. M. Zola says: Add literature to your journalism; Mr. Higginson says: Add journalism to your literature. Which is right?

—The fashion is growing in England of printing *éditions de luxe* on specially prepared paper and with due attention to the typography and illustrations, the edition being limited to a comparatively small number of copies, which are numbered, while the type is distributed as each sheet is printed. A curious instance of the popularity of such works is furnished by the publication last week of a new edition of Hamerton's "Etchers and Etchings." Macmillan, of London, issued 1,000 copies at five guineas on Friday; on Saturday the publishers offered six guineas a copy to such subscribers as would return their books, and this they could very well afford to do, seeing that the booksellers were asking eight and nine, and receiving such prices from eager purchasers. This advance of a book's price, 80 per cent. in twenty-four hours after its publication, is something unparalleled in bibliographical annals.

—The January number of Lippincott's Magazine begins the new series most auspiciously. The old cover has vanished, a new and taking design supplants it and between the leaves of which there is much that is interesting. Margaret Bertha Wright, George Ferrars, Charles Burr Tod, Margaret J. Preston, Marriott Pyne, Josephine Polard, Jennie Woodville, Louise Stockton, Frank D. Y. Carpenter, Mary W. Prescott and the editor appear in its pages to advantage. The change in the plan of the magazine will doubtless prove a most profitable step, for while "Harper's" and "Scribner's" cover their own field sufficiently well, there is no really first-class magazine in this country of the nature of *Temple Bar* and *Cornhill*. Lippincott's has a clear field before it, and American readers will appreciate a magazine that affords them a pleasant time in the railway or by the fireside, that is filled in with good fiction, good poetry, and prose sketches of the happier kind. The *Monthly Gossip* is another appreciative feature, and the illustrations just add the keystone of attraction.

—The *Nuova Antologia* of Rome, for November, contains a long and exhaustive article of 34 pp., by Luigi Palma, on Constitutional Government in the United States. It is one of a series of articles on Modern Constitutions. The article is historical and critical; judicial in tone, and in general laudatory. The writer criticises, however, our Electoral College, the possibility of presidential re-election, and the fact that it is impossible for members of the Cabinet to be at the same time members of either House. In regard to this latter point he thinks that the aim of the founders of the government, to secure a full distinction between the legislative and executive departments, has not been fully realized. He very naturally is biased (in what he says here) in favor of the constitutional monarchy of Italy. We translate a few sentences in order to point out wherein his statements mislead: "In fact there has been, and there is, a pernicious meddling with the executive, on the part of the two Houses through their committees; moreover, it results from this that the State for a certain time can be less readily governed in accordance with the will of the people than in pure constitutional monarchies. In America the ministers are secretaries chosen by the President, and are presided over by him; whatever may be the majority of the Houses, since he is President (i. e. during the four years for which he is nominated), in the sphere of his powers he is inescapable. In our constitutional monarchy, on the contrary, the solid basis given to the State by a King who is hereditary and superior to parties, makes the ministry far more sensitive to changes in public opinion." Now the impression given here is that the President and his Cabinet form a sort of irresponsible autocratic or oligarchic committee of their party. Nothing is said here of the right of Congress to impeach the President, and nothing of that far more powerful, though silent, check—the watching, menacing people, (or public opinion), which is of course more efficacious in the case of an elective government than in an hereditary one. The writer goes on to speak of the danger of Caesarism, of universal suffrage, and of the danger that arises from the refusal of the best men to engage in politics, of the liability of our electoral system to put forward obscure and mediocre men as candidates for the Presidency, &c. In regard to the spoils system, the writer says: "The Athenian Democracy gave itself public spectacles, and remunerated itself for the sovereignty which it exercised in the Agora; the Roman Democracy gave itself bread and gladiatorial exhibitions; the American Democracy distributes to itself the public offices." The writer's final attitude, as respects the success or failure of our government, is that of suspended judgment.

—Concerning some things said by Thomas Hughes during his recent visit to the United States, the *Gentleman's Magazine* indulges in a bit of blustering patriotism and cockneyism which hardly comports with the title of the periodical. *Voilà*: "In order to conciliate the Yankees, at the expense of the dead, he did not hesitate at the beginning of his tour to tell them that the great Satirist and Observer of mankind who wrote 'Martin Chuzzlewit' 'went through America with his eyes shut.' And now on his return, he suggests that piracy, in literature, is no blot upon the American name. 'Indeed rather he read in America than paid,' (he says). Perhaps sooner than not be read, he would prefer to pay them to read him." Comment upon all this is unnecessary.

—The *Goethe-Jahrbuch*, of which the first volume, edited by Dr. Ludwig Geiger, has been published at Frankfurt, is a publication similar to the *Dante-Jahrbuch*, and is hailed by the Germans as a periodical that has long been needed. Otto Brahm, reviewing the work in the November number of the *Deutsche Rundschau*, remarks: "The *Goethe-Wissenschaft* is by no means at the close of its activity, as we often hear; however great a scope it has already taken, and however much that is valuable in a purely biological point of view we have discovered in the course of years—the really penetrating (*eindringend*) work on Goethe has just begun, and that which is by far the most important for the deeper artistic comprehension of his genius remains still to be done. How little we know of the technik of Goethe's poetry! How little of his style, of his language! How scanty are the aesthetic observations which can claim scientific merit! Who has gone still deeper to discover what Goethe learned from his contemporaries, from the Anacreontists, from Klopstock, from Lessing?" The reviewer is, however, far from being satisfied with the article in the volume on "Goethe and Lessing," and thinks it furnishes good proof of his statements about the backward state of *Goethe-Wissenschaft*. He takes especial exception to the *Jahrbuch's* assertion that Lessing was envious of Goethe, and did not act honorably toward him.

THE TRADE AND COMMERCE OF 1880.

THE business and commerce of the United States for the year 1880, have been conducted on a scale of magnitude and with a degree of success beyond all precedent in the history of the country, and, although the prices of staple articles have been too low in most cases to yield the profits usually expected, there has probably been a more general participation in the benefits of an active business than in any recent year. The Western and Interior States have been favored with an active demand for the crops of 1879 remaining unsold, and the prices maintained for those crops, up to the end of June, 1880, were relatively high, paying the Western States extremely well for their produce, and serving to neutralize the enormous drain caused by the speculative importations of iron and general merchandise during the first six months of the year. Wheat was exported at an average value of \$1.33 per bushel, against \$1.05 in 1879; cotton at 12 cents, as against 10½ cents in 1879, etc., while the quantities exported were also considerably greater, the gain on cotton being, for the quarter ending June 30, 1880, \$23,000,000; on wheat, \$14,000,000; on Indian corn, \$4,500,000, etc. And for the year ending June 30, 1880, the gain was twice these amounts on the articles named, most of which belonged to the last half of the fiscal year; the total increased value of exports being \$124,407,611 over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879. As an offset to this, there was an increased importation of merchandise, of an extraordinary character, invited by the high prices of iron and other articles, beginning in December, 1879, which increased importation added one-half to the values of merchandise imported in 1878-9; the total of \$445,777,775 of that year, increasing to \$667,954,746 in 1879-80, an increase of \$222,176,971, although all these aggregates remained much less than the corresponding values of domestic exports.

While commerce and production were very active, therefore, during the first six months of 1880, with prices unusually high, the imports were so large as to stop the importation of gold, and to turn the balance of trade slightly against the United States. The result was a rapid decline of prices, beginning before the end of May, a decline amounting to 25 or 30 per cent. before this direction was finally arrested in August. Fortunately, this decline of prices had the effect to stimulate rather than to check the export trade in both grain and cotton. In fact, manufactured articles, provisions, petroleum, cotton and all important articles, have steadily increased in volume as exports throughout the year, declining to the lowest point as to prices in July and August, and rising 10 to 25 per cent. in prices since that time. The quantities exported have been 20 to 30 per cent. greater than in any former year, and the average of values 10 to 20 per cent. greater. At New York, the quantities and values of exports are more regularly compared by calendar years than elsewhere, and the relative values up to December 15, are as follows:

Exports of 1879—January 1 to December 15,	\$337,443,109
Exports of 1880—January 1 to December 15,	398,423,656
Increase in 1880,	\$ 60,980,547

The increase is nearly 20 per cent.; and it is relatively quite as great at all other Atlantic ports.

The establishment of this greatly enlarged commerce, and the growth and manufacture of increased quantities of merchandise of all classes, by the movement of which it is sustained, is the distinguishing feature of the year. It is also remarkable that the decline of prices during the summer months accelerated rather than checked the commercial movement, and that when the actual crops of the season of 1880 came to be reached, prices should steadily advance rather than recede.

The general result has been to strengthen the financial relations of the United States to foreign countries, and to re-establish the importation or return of gold on a scale nearly as great as in 1879. The importation began in August and up to Dec. 22 had reached a total of \$65,000,000 of gold imports as compared with \$73,000,000 for the like period of 1879. For both these years the return of gold to the United States is commercially exceptional, and with no precedent since 1861. Together, they confirm the new relation of transatlantic commerce which concedes to the United States a general superiority in productive capacity, and the possession of staples of absolute and permanent necessity, which cannot be supplied in Europe. Added to these is the constantly increasing demand for American manufactures, the export values of which are never fully reported in the statistics, but which have their full weight in the exchanges. These exports now go far to neutralize the heavy and constant consignment of European manufactures to the United States to be sold at almost any price.

As a whole, the external commerce of the year 1880 has been active beyond all precedent, covering larger quantities and values than in any former year, and establishing the superiority of the United States as a producing country under circumstances of unexpected difficulty.

The one unsatisfactory feature of this commerce is the continued decline in the proportion carried by American vessels, and the almost complete monopoly of the steamer transit by foreign vessels. Everything may now be carried by steamers, the heavy freights of every class, except perhaps cotton, being more promptly and safely shipped by steamers. For this freighting business the models in use are of light draft yet of great tonnage capacity, cheaply propelled, and nearly as well adapted to passenger traffic as to freight. They carry 3,000 to 3,800 tons of freight, where vessels of the accepted passenger models previously in use will carry no more than 1,500 to 1,800 tons. There is scarcely a single American steamer of proper model afloat in the transatlantic trade, although reasonably good ones constitute a line to Brazil and to China. The chief reason for the exclusion of American shipping from transatlantic trade, is the neglect to build vessels of the proper models; steamers alone can conduct it successfully, and these must be of proper form and capacity. Those built on the Clyde, in England, cost 25 to 30 per cent. less than if built here, and as foreign vessels

have precisely equal privileges in transatlantic trade with those built and sailed under the American flag, no shipbuilder thinks that he can afford to attempt the unequal competition.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, the actual values of Imports and Exports were as follows:

Domestic exports,	\$823,946,353
Foreign mdse. re-exported,	11,692,305
Total mdse. exports,	835,598,658
Total mdse. imported,	667,954,746
Excess of mdse. exports,	167,643,912
Gold and silver exported,	17,142,325
Gold and silver imported,	93,634,310
Excess of gold and silver imported,	76,491,985

For the calendar year 1880 all these values will be greater, the exports by nearly \$60,000,000 and the imports by about \$35,000,000; the gold and silver imported being, however, about \$15,000,000 less. The balance of trade will be nearly the same, or in the same proportion favorable to the United States.

The state of internal trade and of the leading industries is equally advanced in 1880 over 1879, the year having been one of especial activity. The general system of traffic lines from the interior to the seaboard have been pressed with business, and have handled ten to twenty per cent. more than in any former year. The current tabular statements of the receipts of these roads show large gains in the current year in nearly all cases, and the earnings reported are such as to stimulate the extension and more complete equipment of all of them. Several new roads are under progress in the Western States and Territories, which will extend the present so-called trunk lines much beyond their present limits, adding a considerable percentage to their immediate business. The greater activity and business of the railroads cannot but represent an advance of less than ten to fifteen per cent. on their business during 1879.

The leading staples of production for the country generally are greater in quantity for 1880 than for 1879. In precious metals mined there is a small increase only, but the receipts of gold and silver from foreign countries are very large, causing an accumulation in the mint and banks. A large quantity of both gold and silver has been sent into the Western States, an evidence of the great value of the produce shipped from them to the East and to foreign countries.

The wheat crop of 1880 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 480,849,723 bushels, as compared with a crop of 448,756,118 bushels in 1879, a gain of 9 per cent.

The crop of Indian corn can only be roughly estimated for 1880, as being reasonably near to 1,500,000,000 bushels, and 5 to 8 per cent. greater than in 1879.

The crop of cotton marketed in the year 1879-80, of the growth of 1879, was the largest then known, reaching 5,750,000 bales of 450 lbs each; the receipts from this crop continued to come in to a late period, well advanced in 1880, in consequence of fine weather protracting the picking season. The crop grown in 1880 was early in maturing in the Atlantic States, and was there 10 to 15 per cent. larger than that of 1879. It was at first estimated at 6,000,000 bales for this season, but recent returns from the Mississippi States, where the season has throughout been unfavorable, reduce estimates to not more than 5,750,000 bales. Of this crop the first three months from September 1st, shows receipts at the ports of 2,428,890 bales, as compared with 2,182,184 bales for the same period last year, an increase of 246,706 bales. The takings of spinners for consumption and the quantities held in stock are also greater than last year, in about the same proportion. The exports to foreign countries are 1,263,997 bales in three months of 1880, as compared with 1,180,325 bales for the same period of 1879.

Although the reported consumption of Northern mills is but 554,355 bales this year, against 549,834 bales last year of the crop of 1880, to December 1, it is believed that a larger manufacture of cotton is conducted than last year by 5 to 7 per cent. During the first five or six months of the year the consumption of cotton was very active and much greater than in the same months of 1879. All the industries in cotton have been exceptionally busy during the year; first for the period from January to July, which called all available machinery into use, and represented high prices for all textile fabrics. From June to October prices receded, and there was much less activity, with some losses to manufacturers and dealers, but the closing months of the year renew the activity of the last months of 1879, and there is again a brisk demand for more machinery, with higher prices for all cotton fabrics.

The industries in wool and silk present results almost the same as here described for cotton. They are very large and are rapidly extending their operations. Large quantities of wool have been imported within the year, and the consumption in manufactures will add 50,000,000 pounds from this source to 250,000,000 pounds grown in this country.

The importation of raw silk in the last fiscal year was almost one-half greater than in the previous year; being 2,566,236 pounds, valued at \$12,024,699, as compared with 1,889,786 pounds, valued at \$371,635, in the previous year. Chinese raw silk continues at low prices, with large importations, and a rapidly extending manufacture of silk in this country.

The reports of Chambers of Commerce and Trade organizations made for the calendar year will show an exceptional state of activity for this as compared with former years, but their figures are not available for this review. The financial report of clearings and bank settlements, referred to elsewhere, confirms this view in a striking manner, especially for the western cities.

While the normal growth of the country, and therefore of its business and commerce, scarcely reaches an average of five per cent. per annum for a period of years, it is probable that the increased activity of 1880 represents a much greater gain both in production and in exchanges, and it may therefore be claimed as one of the most prosperous in our history.

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, December 29, 1880.

WE have almost reached the turning point of the year, and surveys of the past and prognostications of the future are now in order on Wall street. Prophecy, however, is generally ignored, and the past is only being considered in the light which it throws upon the present situation. To-day the "street" is prone to be more conservative and philosophical in its utterances than has been the case for a month or more past. Stocks, at the Stock Exchange, however, have not halted in their upward course, and the investment stocks that are generally considered "gilt-edged" are 5 and 6 per cent. higher than their closing quotations last week. The Vanderbilt stocks, excepting Canada Southern, whose statement at last week's meeting was less favorable than the showings of the company's kindred, have appreciated in value to the greater extent, but the Pacific stocks have also made handsome gains, together with a few special members of the list not of first-class reputation. On Monday succeeding the Christmas holidays the fever for purchasing broke out with renewed fervor, and the speculation closes to-day at high prices. Nevertheless, the last two days in the stock market have exhibited features unpleasantly suggestive of considerable quiet marketing of stocks to the believers in the stability of present prices.

The general financial situation need not change to convert the "bull" talkers of to-day on Wall street to "bear" talkers to-morrow, and it cannot be said that there has been any universal outbreak of doubt or interest. But conservative brokers are disposed to call a halt, and undoubtedly stocks have come into the "street" to a considerable extent for realizing of profits upon the prospective easing of money.

The Stock Exchange speculation has been banking recently upon the assumption that the future Government rate of interest would be 3 per cent. Securities paying 5, 6 and 7 and 8 per cent. interest have been bought up because the corporations back of them gave promise of continued strength, and the surplus funds seeking remuneration for investment were not content to take 3 per cent. from the Government for the loan of the money. There is no doubt an immense amount of stocks and bonds locked away by investors, which will not be disturbed by anything short of a terrible disaster in the Wall Street markets or to the country, and it is an unknown factor in the problem as to how far this absorption of securities will resist an attack on prices, or a general selling out of buyers for a profit in the diminution of the supply of securities. As regards stocks, of course the investment absorption is not so great as it is in railroad mortgages. There is a decided difference between owning a good property encumbered with debt and being its creditor. People will purchase the stock of a railroad company in hope of making a profit on a future appreciation of its value, instead of securing the slower but perhaps surer return from the company's mortgage bonds, and while the effect of their purchase is felt by the market price of the stock, should they become frightened as to the realization of their profit and sell out, the depression consequent is proportionate to the improvement caused by the purchase.

In surveying the present situation, the possibly unfavorable future must be considered as well as the favorable present. The country is now enjoying a splendid prosperity in most businesses. Railroad earnings have been enormous during the year, and there is hardly a company which has begun or resumed paying dividends which has not at the same time improved its property permanently and added new facilities for conduct of traffic. Some of the companies have earned profits which make it seem almost a crime (to the stockholders), not to double or treble their present rates of dividends. At the West many roads which heretofore have been wholly dependent on the results of good crops for their traffic, now see industries started along their lines, with the growth of the country through which they pass, that will yield a business independent of the condition of the weather at planting or harvesting time. The country is richer to-day than it was a year ago and money is anxious to get good returns on investment, in many cases, without the bother and labor required by actual business enterprise. An instance of the addition which has been made to the class of investment-seekers during the past year, may be found in the Government reduction of its debt, over \$100,000,000 having been paid out in 1880 for Government bonds redeemed. The present year's prosperity has also been augmented by the heavy demand from Europe for all the products of our soil, to say nothing of the foreign purchasing of American securities of nearly every description. With national prosperity back of the railroads, and with the national credit such as to warrant a successful refunding of the Government debt on a low basis, investors have been prone to look to railway securities for their income instead of to Government bonds. The favorable state of affairs is not denied nor deprecated by the persons who think stocks are too high. But they argue that it will not do to mark up even good stocks to prices based on a Government 3% bond at par before the next year's refunding operations are even begun; they point out that many companies which now pay good dividends, may be left, by a failure of crops next year or the year after, without any profits for the stockholders, and they finally urge that the very prosperity of the railroads of the country may lead either to legislation having in view the aims of compelling the roads to share with the public by reducing rates or to the construction of rival lines at a cost far below the capitalization of the existing lines.

Railroad bonds have been less active, but they maintained great strength through the week. Government bonds also have been firm, and the Southern issues of State bonds have been active and buoyant. Money has been easy, except during the last two days, when evident manipulation forced from borrowers commissions of 1-64 @ 1/4 per cent. per diem, plus the legal rate.

The Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Company presented a good showing for the year's operations at a meeting of the directors which was held in this city on Tuesday. The directors declared a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent. on the company's stock. The gross

earnings for the year ended Dec. 31, 1880, (the month of December being partly estimated), amounted to \$2,637,854 against \$2,035,597 last year; and the operating expenses, construction, equipment, etc., were \$1,467,336 against \$1,223,422, leaving \$1,170,518 as the net result against \$811,175 last year. With the fixed charges deducted, a balance was left in 1880 of \$515,878 against \$153,855 last year, and after the payment of 6 1/2 per cent. in dividends on the preferred stock, this year there is left a surplus of \$185,483.

A dividend of 3 1/4 per cent. on the first preferred stock of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad Company was also declared this week, and after this payment and expenditures for equipment, construction, etc., the Company shows for 1880 a surplus more than equal to another 3 1/4 per cent. dividend on the first preferred.

The condition of the New York banks continues to improve. The last statement was made up for a period of only five days, but the banks gained, as shown by the Clearing House statement, in that time \$1,408,200 specie, and lost only \$17,500 legal tenders, making the net gain in reserve \$1,390,700, and placing it \$3,619,900 above the sum required under the 25 per cent. rule. It is also to be noted that the statement was made up on rising averages, and that the condition of the banks at the beginning of the current week was better than that indicated. For the bank week the Sub-Treasury showed a gain of about two and a half million dollars, but this was wholly artificial, so far as the business at this point was concerned, the transfers from other points for the same period amounting to double that sum. The payment of interest by the Sub-Treasury, which began yesterday, may be expected to have a decided effect upon the banks' specie reserves.

A new rule has been adopted by the leading banks of this city as to the manner of quoting sterling exchange, which is to take effect next Monday, the basis for the quotations being the American dollar instead of the English pound. Since the announcement of the proposed change it has met with considerable opposition, principally from the Cotton and Produce Exchange, although some foreign exchange drawers express a preference for the old system. The principal objection to the change is that it will produce confusion among buyers of exchange, and render useless valuable tables that have been prepared and are now in use under the old system. The principal excuse given for the departure from old landmarks is that it will result in greater profit to the brokers, who claim to be very poorly compensated for their time and trouble.

Mr. Gowen still fondly clings to Reading. In a dispatch sent from London to his Philadelphia friends during the latter part of the week, he announced that at a crowded meeting of the English security-holders, resolutions expressing entire confidence in the present management were adopted with only one dissenting vote. It now transpires that some of the leading English security-holders, including the McCalmont Brothers, and others who have heretofore supported Mr. Gowen, were not at the meeting, and that they are earnestly opposed to any further continuance of Mr. Gowen at the head of the Company's affairs. They and others have placed their proxies in the hands of a house in this city to be voted for the election of Mr. Frank Bond as President, and for a harmonious board of directors. Mr. Bond is at present the Vice-President of the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, and an experienced railroad man. Mr. Gowen, meanwhile, takes occasion to write to the London Times, stating that he cannot be defeated by the vote of the McCalmont proxies in favor of another candidate, and that his re-election is assured. Mr. Gowen's remarkably sanguine temperament has been one of the leading features in his management of the Reading Companies, and it does not appear that it has deserted him. If there is anything that will carry him through the present crisis and enable him to retain his position at the head of the affairs of the two companies, it is this same confidence in himself and whatever he undertakes.

Recent Chicago papers give flattering accounts of the prosperity of that city and the West. During the current year the bank clearings increased over last year, which was the heaviest in the history of the city, \$336,000,000, the total for the year being \$1,693,000,000, and the banks now give a flourishing financial exhibit. But the chief increase has been in the grain trade. Elevator room has been increased over 2,000,000 bushels. There has been an aggregate of grain received of 161,000,000 bushels, against 138,000,000 in 1879, and 60,000,000 in 1870. The increase of this year over last is in corn and oats, the other cereals showing a falling off owing to the "corner" of 1879, which brought out heavy quantities of old grain. This year the receipts were 3,000,000 barrels of flour, 23,000,000 bushels of wheat, 95,000,000 bushels of corn, 22,000,000 bushels of oats, and 7,000,000 bushels of rye and barley. The shipments this year were 156,000,000 bushels, and last year 126,000,000. In the provision trade there was also a decided improvement. For the year ending November 1, 1880, 5,375,000 hogs were slaughtered, against 5,089,000 in 1879, and this in the face of a serious labor disturbance lasting through the better part of the packing season. The average daily capacity of the packing houses is 100,000 hogs per year. The aggregate weight of this year's killing was 1,100,000,000 pounds, and the value \$62,000,000, an increase of \$20,000,000 over the value of the hog crop of 1879. Seven million hogs, 1,354,000 cattle and 329,000 sheep were received, and 860,000 cattle and 1,380,000 hogs were shipped.

The Philadelphia market has been strong but not active, the leading stocks, as usual, being Pennsylvania Railroad, Reading and Pittsburg, Titusville and Buffalo. Pennsylvania Railroad is the principal investment stock on the Pennsylvania Stock Exchange list, and its fluctuations are not violent. There is also a manifest disposition to await further developments before attempting another movement in Reading, and consequently the stock has been about steady, although with a heavy tendency. There has been some improvement in the bond transactions, especially in some of the Reading issues, but this class of securities is not so much a favorite for speculative purposes in Philadelphia as in New York.

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